Wednesday, March 7, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 90 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Inquirer 24-7 Facebook Twitter: @inquirer

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

SLICE OF SUMMER A slice of watermelon is a yummy thirst quencher and entices passersby to stop and buy the fruit of summer that is selling at P120 pesos each along Edsa Monumento in Caloocan City on Tuesday.

Prosecution scores win

GOING FOR 6,000 President Aquino (third from left) poses with business tycoons and officers of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) after ringing the bell in Makati City on Tuesday to mark last Friday's historic market closing level of above 5,000 points. With the President are (from left) Andrew Tan, Teresita Sy-Coson, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, PSE chair Jose Pardo, PSE president Hans Sicat and BPI president Aurelio Montinola III.

Impeachment court admits Corona bank accounts as evidence

By Christine Y. Esguerra

LAWYERS of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday lost in their bid to suppress evidence pertaining to his bank records, despite suspicions that the prosecution had obtained them through illegal means.

The records showed that the Chief Justice, who is charged with betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution, kept millions in several peso accounts that he did not disclose in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Senators, sitting as judges in the impeachment court, ruled to accept the evidence offered by prosecutors for the second impeachment article, which alleged that Corona failed to publicly declare his SALN.

"The court has arrived at a decision and ruling that it will deny the motion to suppress and accept the evidence for the

PROSECUTION A6

Prosecution feels vindicated but won't celebrate 'until fat lady sings' • Defense bows to court decision • Impeach court not bound by rules of evidence / A2

Lawyer gets slap on the wrist for 'bear no Miriam'

By Cecily C. Tamayao

FOR COMMITTING what his enemies, Sen. Miriam Santiago, said was "a galactic act of spol," or a publicity-seeking hound, volunteer prosecution lawyer Vitaliano Aguirre II got away with only a slap on the wrist.

Santiago said she had no problem with the penalty meted out yesterday on Aguirre, who cupped his ears with his hands as she slammed the prosecution last Wednesday for suddenly announcing it was dropping five of the eight articles of im-

LAWYER A6

PSE chair: Good governance luring investors

By Desiree L. Luras

THE PHILIPPINES is experiencing a surge in portfolio investments from abroad on the back of renewed confidence among fund managers in the country's economic prospects, Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) chair Jose Pardo said yesterday.

Pardo pointed out that some P243 billion worth of net foreign buying in local shares had so far been recorded this year, reversing the net foreign outflow in the same period last year.

"The continued strengthening of our macroeconomic fundamentals, positive outlook on the growth of our listed companies and confidence in your administration's good governance drive, among others, have been catching the attention of investors locally and globally," Pardo said in a speech before President Aquino took to the PSE trading floor to celebrate the stock index's rise on Monday above the 5,000 mark.

"This historic rise of the index

PSE CHAIR A19

Gov't seeks 50% share of mining revenues

By Michelle V. Rosa and Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT wants a bigger share, possibly as high as 50 percent, in revenues generated by mining firms operating in the country, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said yesterday.

Speaking at the Philippine Economic Forum held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, Purisima described what the government was currently getting from mining firms as

GOV'T A19

Idea: They give dogs bad name, call them rascals

By Tina G. Santos

THEY GIVE dogs a bad name so why not change their name from Askals to, say, taxcoin?

"Change the name to something else ... jeepney-a-aye (street dogs)," former first lady Arroyo "Mrs." Flames said when asked to

IDEA A19

UP tribute: Gani had his eye on the future

By Marichu Lambino

(Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher Isagani M. Yambot Sr. died last Friday in his home 10 days after undergoing a quadruple heart bypass operation. The Inquirer has been flooded with tributes to him for his contributions to the media industry. Here's one more.)

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot had his eye on the future.

Every graduation day for the past decade, he attended the graduation rites of the college

UP TRIBUTE A6

BASA CORONA

'We're talking only now due to revelations in trial'

By Cynthia D. Balana

(Last of two parts)

(Editor's Note: In this interview, Ana Basa, one of Jose Ma. Basa III's nine children and one of the heirs of the original stockholders of Basay Gardens Enterprises Inc., talks about the family corporation and what she says were the injustices heaped on them by Chief Justice Renato Corona and his wife Cristina. For security reasons, Ana,

who is here on a short visit, requested the Inquirer not to reveal her whereabouts. She has been in the casino business for more than 20 years in Las Vegas, Nevada.

She clarified on Tuesday a sentence in the introduction to Part 1 of the Q and A which reads: 'Jose Ma. Basa III, one of the original BGEI incorporators,

BETTER TALKING A6

Corona: Don't believe her lies / A6

NEWS

AFP: No word about coup vs P-Noy / A2

Son contradicts Chavit on tobacco 'sin' taxes / A2

Quake hits Masbate; 8 hurt / A10

WORLD

150 die in arms depot blast in Congo / A25

LIFESTYLE

Bringing back PH designs 'glory days' / C2

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

No word about coup–AFP

Iggy's sister may run for vacant House seat

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

TIBIAO, Antique, Region VI—Former First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo said here Monday he would endorse his sister, Maribon Arroyo Lesaca, should she decide to run for the congressional seat of their late brother, Rep. Exequiel "Iggy" Arroyo.

Mike Arroyo, Lesaca, Iggy's wife Alicia Rita "Ayel" Morales-Arroyo, his parents Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Atty. Jose Antonio Arroyo and Aleksa Arroyo were at St. Mary Magdalene Church here Monday night having accompanied Iggy's remains from Manila.

Mike Arroyo, in an interview, said he would support the candidacy of Lesaca for the 4th district seat of Negros Occidental, that includes the town, which Iggy represented in Congress.

Ask Arroyo also said she would support a congressional bid by Lesaca, who had said she would like to consult the people of the district before making a decision.

Iggy's term runs to mid-in 2013. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said a special election may be called to another congressman may be asked to fill the seat until then.

Reyes said she did not want to relate of politics because she was grieving, although the bus reportedly here urged by some to run for the seat.

She would only say that if she did not run, she would support the one who would work for the people of the district still as much dedication, sincerity and love as Iggy.

Other names that have mentioned as possible congressional candidates are Bacolodnon Wilson Alejandro Montal and Negros Occidental board members Rodolfo Dominic and Eraldo Yulo III.

Iggy's remains arrived at the Bacolod-Silay Airport after 9 p.m. on Monday aboard a Philippine Airlines accompanied by Reyes, her children and Iggy's daughters Bianca and Dina with his first wife Maricar Jacinto. Mike and Maribon arrived shortly after on a private plane.

Around 6,000 people, many carrying torches and in black, lined a 20-kilometer route of the road leading to the church.

After Fr. Greg Pable blessed Iggy's remains in liturgical rites, local residents formed a single line so they filed past its coffin.

On Thursday, Iggy's remains will be brought back to the Ayala family home in La Vista, Quezon City. Burial is on Saturday at the Manila North Cemetery.

In Manila, Reyes's former classmate in Ateneo said no one was bored from the wake and funeral of Iggy. With a report from Aida M. Ayroso

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines has denied that there are any attempts to recruit from its ranks for an ouster plot against President Aquino, though it did not dismiss outright the allegations made by a parliamentarian-senator.

"We have no confirmation there is a recruitment ongoing in the AFP. It's such a big thing is happening and that will not happen, I tell you," AFP spokesperson Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr. told reporters yesterday.

And if indeed there will be an attempt made to recruit in the AFP, "it will not succeed because the organization is very strong and our commanders are really in touch with the troops in the field," Burgos said.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a former Navy lieutenant who led two military uprisings against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and was granted amnesty last year by the Aquino administration, claimed last Monday that the ouster plot against Aquino was real.

He said some retired military officers, whom he did not identify, have been trying to convince active AFP personnel that the Aquino administration was unfavorable and power must change.

Burgos said the AFP leadership was taking Trillanes' claims seriously and has been in touch with him on his own as a former military man "since he's one of the armed forces."

According to Burgos, troop morale remained high with all the needs of AFP personnel being addressed under the Aquino administration.

He said the President's support for the military's long-delayed modernization is "unprecedented."

He said AFP Chief Lt. Gen. Jessie Dellosa was to convene commanders with field commanders while ground commanders are slated to touch base with troops in the boondocks.

Military loyalty

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday said Malacañang was unperturbed by the coup rumors and was "100 percent sure of the military's loyalty."

"We are not bothered by any rumors of a coup. The AFP has already issued a statement to that effect—that it is a professional organization. It will abide by the command-in-chief," Lacierda said.

He assailed the retired military officers that Trillanes had accused of including active soldiers to join the alleged coup plot.

"The retired military officers have forgotten that this is already a professional organization. This is no longer the organization that they were used to," Lacierda said.

Lacierda insisted that the Aquino administration was a welcoming government.

"That's only not true. When the President meets the soldiers, he is always concerned about their plight, their well-being," he said.

Lacierda said the President has been quite supportive of the plight of Filipino soldiers and police officers.

"The President, only so in his administration, issued an order that retirees, essential equipment. He gives it on the ground forces. We have increased the combat pay of the soldiers and we are providing hazard benefits and so is for the soldiers," he said.

PNP monitoring

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday said it was monitoring rumors of a destabilization plot supposedly involving retired military officials connected to the ousted Arroyo government.

However, it has received no such intelligence reports, the PNP said.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr. assured the public that the PNP would thwart any effort by any group to recruit its members in support of a supposed coup against Aquino.

Cruz said the reports, including the revelations of Trillanes, have been placed high on the PNP's priority list for intelligence operations to verify. With Jerome Aning, Jocelyn Uy, Gil Cabacungan and DJ Yap

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Son contradicts Chavit on benefits of sin taxes

THE SON of Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday refuted claims by his father that only the manufacturers and not the farmers have benefited from tobacco production in their Northern Luzon home province.

Ilocos Sur Representative Ryan Singson told a hearing of the House ways and means committee that Ilocos Sur became a first-class province primarily due to the addition of income generated by the farmers from tobacco sold to cigarette manufacturers.

Chavit in another congressional hearing sponsored by the Department of Health in Manila days after news of opposing his remarks on taxes (Chavit used to a be known representative), he had come to the conclusion that only manufacturers pay taxes at the expense of farmers.

In contrast, the younger Singson warned that if the government proceeded with its proposed chief from a sachet to unitary tax system for alcohol and cigarettes, tobacco farmers would have a difficult time finding buyers for their tobacco products.

Critics of House Bill No. 5727 said the shift to a unitary tax would benefit high-priced, imported cigarette brands while cheap, local products would be driven out of business with an excessive tax rate.

The unitary tax would make premium brands currently taxed P35 per pack pay P40 to P45—an almost 1000 percent increase—in three years. This would put these local brands beyond the reach of poor consumers, critics said. With Cabacungan

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China tells US: Respect our interests in Asia

BEIJING—China on Tuesday called on the United States to respect its interests in the Asia Pacific, as Washington seeks to boost its influence in the region.

China's territorial disputes with countries, including Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam have intensified in recent years and its neighbors have accused Beijing of bolstering aggressively.

"We are ready to work with the United States and other countries in this region to develop an Asia Pacific that enjoys greater stability and development," Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told a news conference on the sidelines of the country's annual parliamentary session. AFP

PETITION FOR WRIT OF AMPARO

Gatdula no-show at hearing

By Jayson T. David

FORMER National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Chief Magtanggol Gatdula failed to show up at a hearing yesterday on his petition for amparo, prompting the judge to threaten to dismiss the petition outright.

After nearly two hours of waiting for the Gatdula camp to appear, Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 20 Judge Silvino Pampo Jr. rescheduled the hearing for today with the admonition that he would dismiss the case if Gatdula or his representatives fail to show up again.

"[There should] be a demonstration of a lack of interest on their part to pursue their petition. If that really was a threat, they will work hard to be here and prosecute their case," said Malacañang Cabinet Secretary, the executive solicitor general.

Mixup

Gatdula's lawyer, Abraham Espino, explained that their failure to show up yesterday was because of a calendar mixup.

After the hearing was adjourned, Espino argued that Gatdula's petition should be dismissed, saying that it must be "sufficient in form and substance" as Pamplo had not immediately granted it.

Gatdula, who was dismissed after he was implicated in the Nonoy Dilan kidnapping case, filed last Feb. 27 a petition for a writ of amparo to restrain Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, NBI officer in charge Nonnatus Rojas and NBI deputy director for technical services Reynaldo Esmeralda, from threatening his liberty.

He claimed that De Lima and the NBI are set to arrest him as the mastermind of an ambush attempt on Esmeralda last Feb. 21, which Esmeralda and De Lima have dismissed may have been orchestrated by the Dilans.

PA-M extortion

Dilan, a Japanese national, was illegally arrested by NBI agents last October for being an undocumented alien. She alleged that the NBI had extorted at least P4 million for her release.

A Department of Justice (DOJ) fact-finding panel recommended last January the filing of kidnapping and illegal detention charges against Gatdula and several NBI officers in connection with the Dilan case, which led directly to Gatdula's dismissal by President Aquino.

On Feb. 10, Gatdula was able to obtain a preliminary injunction from the Manila RTC Branch 6 to stop the DOJ from conducting a preliminary investigation against him on the Dilan kidnapping complaint.

He alleged that the fact-finding probe was illegal and that it violated, among other things, his constitutional right against self-incrimination, and his right to counsel.

In a motion filed on March 2, the DOJ, the Office of the Solicitor General has asked Manila RTC Branch 6 Judge Felisberto Ordoñez Jr. to inhibit himself from hearing Gatdula's petition.

The OSG claimed that in granting the preliminary injunction, the judge showed he had already "prejudged" the main issue.

Teves tells of 2 meetings with Abalos, Chinese businessmen

By Lolit B. Salsarita

FORMER Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday testified in the Sandiganbayan that he met twice with former chairman Benjamin Abalos and several Chinese businessmen in 2008 and 2007, and the canceled national broadband network (NBN) deal was discussed at one of them.

The NBN project was taken up in the second meeting, held at the Mark Mark Golf and Country Club, and at which former Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza was present. This took place in late 2006 or early 2007.

Prior to that, Teves said, Abalos had sought a meeting with him in 2006 and brought along several Chinese businessmen who were interested in an agriculture-related project in Mindanao. One of the Chinese also attended the Mark Mark gathering later.

When asked, Teves said it was "not usual" for government officials to bring guests for him to meet. He also said he could not recall other public officials who did the same.

The finance secretary in the Arroyo administration was called as a witness in the ongoing graft trial of Abalos, who stands accused of taking an interest in the NBN project which had nothing to do with his duties as Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair. The NBN deal, awarded to China's ZTE Corp., was later canceled by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo amid allegations of overpricing and bribery.

In his testimony before the Sandiganbayan 4th Division, Teves said he arrived late at the Mark Mark meeting because of a prior engagement, and stayed for only about 30 minutes.

He said the group composed of Abalos, Mendoza and three Chinese businessmen was talking about golfing a lot. On the project and wanted to know the process of forging agreements. He believed he was invited because as secretary of finance he would have to sign any loan agreement that might come up.

As for the first meeting with Abalos and other Chinese businessmen sometime in 2006, he said Abalos called him up and asked to meet with him.

Teves indicted Abalos in his house, and the then Comelec chief arrived with three Chinese businessmen, one of them who would be in the Mark Mark meeting later. Teves was told the businessmen wanted to confer for some Mindanao projects. There was no mention of the NBN project during this meeting.

Sandiganbayan Justice Jose Hernandez asked if governance officials usually come to him bringing guests, and Teves replied that it was "not usual."

Meanwhile, the determination of probable cause in another NBN-related graft case filed against Abalos, Mendoza, former President Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo may have to wait another 20 days.

This after the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) on Monday asked the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division for 20 more days to resolve the motions for reconsideration filed by Abalos and Mike Arroyo in the case.

The OSP's deadline was March 6, but it said in its manifestation and motion yesterday the pleadings were still pending in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Deborah Salvador; 77

RETIRED public school teacher Deborah Cabrungan Salvador, 77, died on March 2.

She is survived by her husband, Romeo Salvador, and sons Romeo Jr., Ronald, Reynold and Angelo.

Her cremation are currently in Siena, Quezon first and will be transferred to the Gold of Grace for interment and burial later this week.

Correction

IN THE MAR. 2 ISSUE, a front-page story—"SMA presides over Iggy's senior in 'La Stua'"—misnamed the party-list group of Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo. He is the representative of Ang Galing Pinoy—not Ang Kasangga.

Singapore maids' day off is fine, but it's 'not enough'

By TJ Burgonio

SINGAPORE'S decision to grant a weekly rest day to its foreign domestic workers, including Filipinos, was significant but fell short of international standards, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

The reform, announced by Singapore's Manpower Ministry on Monday, would apply to new contracts and renewals beginning January 2013 and fails to address the violations of domestic workers from whom they have previously in Singapore's Employment Act, the New York-based rights watchdog said.

Basic right

"The Singaporean government's recognition of a weekly rest day as a basic labor right will make the lives of migrant domestic workers better," said Nisha Varia, women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, in a statement.

But this reform, she added, "should go into effect this year and apply to all domestic workers and their current contracts."

Singaporean families employ approximately 200,000 foreign domestic workers primarily from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, according to Human Rights Watch.

Many of them work long hours seven days a week, face ever-present threats of pay to settle charges imposed by employment agencies, and face restrictions on leaving their work place even during their time off, it said.

Manpower Minister Tan Chuan-Jin announced that employers would choose to compensate a worker in lieu of a rest day with the latter's permission on related sources.

Given the imbalance of power between employers and domestic workers, there is a significant risk of abuse by employers who may coerce workers into signing away their rest day, the watchdog said.

"As Minister Tan noted in his speech to parliament, a day off is critical for a domestic worker's physical, mental and emotional well-being," Varia said. "The government should close the monetary loophole and ensure that domestic workers will actually get at least a minimum number of rest days."

Reforms

Singapore has introduced reforms in recent years to improve the situation of foreign domestic workers, including mandatory orientation programs and stronger regulation of employment agencies. The state has also been increasingly prosecuting employers who physically abuse their domestic workers, resulting in fines and prison terms, Human Rights Watch said. With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

Summer off to sizzling start, but you ain't seen nothing yet

By TJ Burgonio

BRACE for even hotter days.

Summer has just begun, and the searching heat in most parts of the country is expected to intensify towards May, weather forecasters said yesterday.

Temperatures soared to 34.7 degrees Celsius in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, on Saturday and Sunday, so far the hottest temperature logged by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) since summer kicked in last week.

When summer peaks in May, temperatures could rise as high as 39 degrees Celsius or even 39.2 degrees Celsius, the two highest recorded temperatures in Tuguegarao, Cagayan and Calamaniuan, Nueva Ecija, respectively, on May 1 last year. Or it could rise even higher, forecaster Jori Loiz said in an interview.

"We should expect hotter weather in the coming weeks. Temperatures will rise," he said, cautioning the public against venturing out between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. without any protection, less they'll get hit by ultraviolet rays.

The forecast's station at the Science Garden in Quezon City recorded a temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius at around 2 p.m. yesterday.

There will be brief respite, though, in the form of afternoon or evening rainshowers, triggered by heat and moisture in the atmosphere.

"But it's not going to rain every day," he said.

The archipelago experiences two types of dry seasons: a cold dry season from December to February and a hot dry season from March to May. Summer is experienced throughout the country except for the eastern parts which are watered by rain all throughout the year.

La Niña, which has intensified the rainfalls over the eastern sections of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, is expected to weaken soon, according to Loiz. Associated with strong rainfall, it is expected to dissipate between March and May.

Zobel leads Rotary tourism awardees

RUBENGOMEZ Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Andrew Tan and Henry Sy Chutory lead the 10 recipients of this year's Tourism Awards handed out by the Rotary Club of Manila.

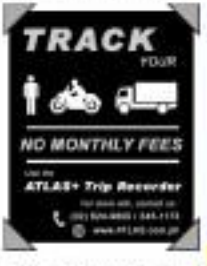
Club president Wilmer Caset said the awards ceremony will be held March 13 during the weekly luncheon meeting at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

Tourism Awards committee chair Rafael Luis Joseph said the award, now on its eighth year, was conceived "to recognize men (no personalities in the industry and to support and promote the country as a tourist destination with the various Rotary Clubs throughout the world, with emphasis on the human aspect."

Joseph said Ayala was cited for tourism investments, Tan won in the hotel category and Chutory in the resort category.

The other awardees were Jose Mojdeh for tourism development, Miguel Belmonte of the Philippine Star for print media, Tourism Undersecretary Benny Corpuz in the national government category, Mandaluyong City Mayor Hermenio Benjamin in the local government category, Metro Cebu Gobanga for online media, Bulk rice Behemoth Hung for tourism education and Nenita Bautista for online travel and tour category.

The Tourism Awards are cosponsored by Philippine Airlines, Tourism Educators and Movers (Team) of the Philippines, iBOM, Club of Makati, Travel Cooperative of the Philippines and Ralph's Wines and Spirits.



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APPETON NUTRITION Health For Life

Remembering Sir Gani: He loved food

By Pat Pinlac
Lifestyle

A VERY DAYS before Christmas, I walked into Sir Gani's office and handed him a gift. It was nothing lavish, just a box of chocolates. Unlike other moody bulls that I thought he would cajole his took the box and said, looking embarrassed, "Sudu..." He trailed off but I knew what he meant. He didn't have a gift for me.

I laughed and said, "Sir, it's 140 Merry Christmas!"

Sir Gani loved food. Often, he'd walk to the library section to see what goodies we had spread out on our table. Sometimes there would be pizza, sometimes brownies, sometimes pancit. And it was always a delight to see him, a big man, doing something I think every person in the newsroom has done—use bond paper as a plate in the absence of real paper plates.

Sir Gani didn't just visit our department to look for sustenance. He'd ask me, my days we were putting Super to bed, "What time will you finish today?" And it didn't matter if I said "8" or "9" or "10." His response was always the same: "A.M.?"

It was a throwback to the days when my mother was indecision for closing our pages given the wee hours. It didn't matter when I couldn't remember the last time I'd missed our deadline; Sir Gani worked up to my desk to ask when I was getting married. No, I didn't punch him in the face.

Pat on the back

When he'd see new people in the office, he was the first to introduce himself. He was friendly, welcoming, appreciative.

Over a decade ago, when I first started doing the pages of the youth section *Bird* at the age of 19, Sir Gani was one of the few to show full confidence in me. "Congratulations! Great issue!" he'd tell me, taking the time out from his busy day to give me a pat on the back.

I looked forward to seeing my pages tacked on the office walls, with his notes scribbled on top of them: "Interesting story," he wrote in red ink over the head of a mixed grain I wrote about Jakarta.

Sir Gani was also the first person to give me an assignment for the front page. He asked me to go to a three-day summit and technology conference back in 2005.

"Beary," I said, before I could stop myself.

"Beary," he repeated, chuckling and shaking his head.

Later, I told him, "Where's my deadline?"

He said, "Every day is your deadline."

I doubted myself. He didn't.

He cared

I loved that he was quick to congratulate the promotion of young people in the newsroom. That he didn't see us as a threat but as the future. That he surrounded himself without insecurity. That he ruled with kindness. That he was there to offer guidance, encouragement and boisterous cheers when we needed. That he dealt with problems with a real head and a genuine interest in the solutions. That he cared.

Several times, I've seen quick to condemn the promotion of young people in the newsroom. That he didn't see us as a threat but as the future. That he surrounded himself without insecurity. That he ruled with kindness. That he was there to offer guidance, encouragement and boisterous cheers when we needed. That he dealt with problems with a real head and a genuine interest in the solutions. That he cared.

Touching lives

In recent days, much more like a home than an office to me. And having to say Good-bye like losing a family member.

I will miss him. I will miss seeing him in the office. I will miss his presence at meetings. I will miss his jokes. I will miss his sad scribbles over our pages. I will miss running into him at Greenhills' Gourmet during lunch-night newsroom runs. I will miss him saying that I should wear white to his funeral. Heck, I will even miss how much he loved sending.

In many people have paid tribute to Sir Gani. It's amazing to see how many people he had touched. The memories are bittersweet and the tributes among the same things over and over. He was kind. He was a gentleman. He was soft-spoken. He was cheerful. He was all that and more.

For 35 years, people like me were alive, he made us want to be a better journalist. And now, in his death, he makes me want to be a better person.

UP tribute: Gani had his eye on the future via PDI journ scholars

From page A1

in various future journalists march up the stage and shake the hands of the deans who asked on and their parents.

Every year for the past decade, Gani Yambot personally coordinated with the department for the enthusiasm of the list of nominees in the Inquirer scholarship grants based on academic performance, published work, journalistic experience and demonstrated leadership.

Every first quarter of every year, he tirelessly and personally tweed, telephoned, e-mailed and wrote to prepare for the awarding of the Inquirer scholarship grants. He never delegated the task to a representative of an assistant. He used his every connection to help us reconfirmed the submission of records in time for evaluation and shortlisting.

Upon our invitation, every April, he braved the summer heat in his working just having, and out onstage with the faculty and staff to personally congratulate the Inquirer scholars and see the face of the future among the journalism graduates.

Commitment to excellence

Gani Yambot saw the next century.

The room modern, technology, fully equipped, LAN-connected simulated newsroom in the university is a donation from the Inquirer.

Named "The Inquirer Newsroom," it hosts the multimedia courses "The Newsroom," "Online Journalism," "Publication Design and Layout," "Multimedia Reinvention," and soon, if approved by the university, the proposed MA Journalism course "Online News Production" (Advanced online journalism: Producing Web content from

Gani Yambot saw the next century.

The room modern, technology, fully equipped, LAN-connected simulated newsroom in the university is a donation from the Inquirer.

Named "The Inquirer Newsroom," it hosts the multimedia courses "The Newsroom," "Online Journalism," "Publication Design and Layout," "Multimedia Reinvention," and soon, if approved by the university, the proposed MA Journalism course "Online News Production" (Advanced online journalism: Producing Web content from breaking and developing news to the social media).

His commitment to news and information literacy and journalistic excellence was equaled only by his uncanny foresight and wisdom in investing in scholars and multimedia infrastructure in the academe.

The light will continue to shine upon us.

On behalf of the Department of Journalism, we extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Gani Yambot.

It would be difficult to imagine this year's graduation ceremony without Gani in our midst, but it would be easy to see him in the face of every journalism scholar and graduate that the Inquirer had supported and believed.

Editor's Note: Lawyer Marichu Lambino is the chair of the UP Department of Journalism and is Director, the teacher needs last online and the fundamentals of journalism.)

'We're talking only now due to revelations in trial we didn't know'

From page A1

had filed an estafa case against his niece (Cristina) for her alleged failure to account the Sun.Star and turn income from the sale of a property on Bonifacio Street in Sampaloc, literally, to the top government."

Also said the estafa case against Cristina Corona, filed in 1993, could be traced to Gani's income, but the proceeds from the sale of the property.)

PUBLIPHOS: Daily Inquirer - Of the original stockholders of Bonifacio Realty Corp., which owns the property, only Gani Yambot, spouse of Hero Basa who passed away; Cristina's cousin, Jeanette Basa, already passed away.

Basa is Gani's grandfather, Guidote is my grandmother's last name. That's why it became Basa-Guidote Enterprises Inc. My grandmother, after my grandfather passed away, set up the business and my mother—only day all her children would have a business, a life together.

I didn't think in her wildest dreams that it would end up like this. SGD is just a small corporation. It's really about the injustice. It's about how many are really? What you want the truth to come out, how these things just kinda get so out of control. Imagine one person being in only control of a corporation? Hey (Cristina's) mom only had a 16 percent share!

PDI: How did it happen?

BASA: Like I said, we still have pending cases in court regarding SGD. So we really would rather not discuss the cases right now.

PDI: I understand Cristina's father was the president (of the corporation).

BASA: Cristina's father was a lawyer and he was the president of the corporation. Being a lawyer, we trusted him of course. Parents have also being our trustees eventually entrusted this to my daughter. Cristina, who by the same like his administration. Since then we never questioned anything because, you know, why should we not trust our own relatives? It was not until 1989 when we started receiving notices from the city government of the property (On Basa-Guidote Building on Legarda Street corner J. Figueroa Street (formerly Bacolod) in Sampaloc, Manila).

My dad left it was time (for us) to find out what was going on. He asked for an accounting but we have never been able to ascertain that. So I don't understand why an administration of SGD refuses to show us an accounting. That's why when that piece of property in Manila was sold in 2001, expropriated, to the city of Manila, we didn't really know what happened to the funds.

Letter to Cristina

PDI: Have you not talked with Cristina?

BASA: I wrote Cristina a personal letter (years ago ... my father had already passed away if we would just work this out. We don't want to be fighting over this whole thing. The letter been able to get her to respond and I believe it's because she knows, this is just my feeling, that we could not fight them because they were so powerful. Not her alone, because she could not have done that on her own but the obviously a man and to intimate (what at that time was already in Mahardhang.

When he (Benito Cristina) was commissioned to be part of the Inquirer Court as a justice of the Supreme Court and as part of the judicial system. But if people cannot trust (the Chief Justice), then something needs to be done. Because as I said, (if cases are decided) based on merits, would we still have pending cases? But it's not for me to worry anymore. It is based on who your connection is. It is more now said by the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and others told us, "Your problem is you have a powerful enemy." He knows that.

'Lawyers afraid'

We were told that we had a good case but our problem is our enemy. We hired lawyers but they quit. They became afraid because they were threatened and intimidated. They no longer wanted to represent or become they really they (we) have families.

I said: Oh my God! Even lawyers were afraid to represent us. That's not good for this country to have that sort of fear of a powerful family. That's something true to the hearts of your enemy's lawyers (is an abuse of his power).

PDI: On the P33 million (Cristina's cash advance from SGD), do you have any idea how Cristina was able to withdraw that?

BASA: We were shocked. We saw it in his SALN. How can they make a cash advance? Shouldn't they get some sort of a board resolution to allow the cash advance?

PDI: How were there were a withdrawal? What's the basis

Corona: Don't believe her lies

By Marlon Ramos

IMPEACHED Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday broke his silence and denounced as "lies" the allegations leveled against him and his wife Cristina by the impeachment court, Ana Basa.

"That's baloney (sic) lies," Corona said in a text message to reporters, referring to Basa's claims in an exclusive interview with the Inquirer.

"She and her branch of the family have been scheming and separating those lies for the past 30 years," he said.

Corona said Basa and her family were "not even stockholders of the corporation."

In an interview on Monday, Gemma's lawyer, Basa's daughters said Cristina was "basically the owner" of Basa-Guidote Enterprises Inc. which she had, Cristina's father, left a piece of property in the city government of Manila in March 2001.

The proceeds of that sale were reportedly deposited in Cristina's name at the Rizal-Quezon City branch of Philippine Savings Bank.

BASA: Yes, my father was not well he was one of the original shareholders. We're the heirs.

PDI: So how many more are there?

BASA: Well, Tita Flory is still around. My dad's side, we are nine kids. Cristina's side, there are eight siblings. Then my Tito Mario has nine. The two sons have no children, obviously.

PDI: Why do you say that? It's still alive, right? Can she talk?

BASA: You know what? As a man, she's very forgiving and we are all very forgiving people. I have long forgiven them. This is just about telling the truth.

PDI: So all in all there are 20 heirs?

BASA: Nine, nine and eight. I don't know if someone gave 10 percent of BDE shares directly to Cristina or to the trustees. I don't know. It was given to Cristina but how about the rest of her siblings?

You know, what is said is that a family is supposed to be family. It's sad because all of this turned out like this. But the fight is not just for us. We are fighting the fight really in name for justice. And even now we continue to fight because I told my father, on his death bed, "I would continue his fight for justice."

Corona in court for wife

PDI: That's why the pending cases?

BASA: Well, it's justice for the sufferings that were done to [us]. I said somebody needs to be accountable. He knew when you're wrong, you need to be accountable for what you do. So I believe the Coronas need to be held accountable.

PDI: The Chief Justice has been saying it's a family problem.

BASA: I don't understand him saying on TV and news that "the property should not away from this because the BDE is a family name." But don't personally see him in court during the hearings with his attorney (Jose). So if he participated in person, why was he absent during the hearing? I saw them walking into the judge's chambers just before the hearing started. So at that time, I wondered why they were not in court. Why did they talked to the judge just before the hearing started.

Is that allowed? I really did not understand why it was happening back then. And all we could do was just sit and wait for the judge to come out. Is that allowed? (I'm dumb was made out to Cristina Corona in front of SGD). He don't know where that check was deposited.

PDI: All of you are American citizens? All your siblings?

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PDI: All of you are American citizens? All your siblings?

under SGD? How was he able to get a cash advance? That's not purposely staying away. That is actually purposely being involved.

I'm sorry, but I believe that dad did not get justice in his life time, we would like to see at least my mother, my Tita Flory and the rest to get justice to think (Cristina) that they can move on and carry justice. They can at least enjoy the fruits of their labor (Cristina's 23 years being silent), being so appreciated and being under diverse because of these cases. That's not how you wanna live the rest of your life as you get older.

No response to letter

PDI: Have you tried recently to talk with Cristina?

BASA: Well, we did. We tried that. I sent a personal letter to Cristina's spouse. If anybody had done anything, it's Eugene and Jam (her husband). But they never responded. We tried to reach out and I asked many people to talk to the Coronas to see how we can put an end to this. But at that time, apparently they were not ready. Now I think that they have very much in power, so why settle with us? Because they could just stop all over us. They still have the power and I think all of this is an abuse of his power.

My sweet family ... I don't care, I don't ... fight words... pain, suffering, frustrations, heartaches, you name it. We felt all that. In the end, we just want our family and relatives to feel somehow victorious that we got justice in our lifetime.

Again, like I said earlier, we're talking only now because there's been a lot of revelations due we're finding out through the impeachment trial. It's almost like ... I don't know how to call it, is that a blessing in disguise or is this what they call karma? Because now, we have finally got some answers but there's still a lot of questions like you said. But we're still waiting to get some answers.

I would like to believe and feel ... I don't wanna be afraid of them retaliating because we were victorious in this case. I believe that time he would easily feel that fear. Why can't the Filipinos just live without fear or favor, you know? If there's a case, why can't it all just be done fairly without feeling that you need to be afraid of who you are suing against?

'My parents so afraid'

PDI: Why are you so wary?

BASA: Because it's bringing back sad memories of how my parents were afraid of what we do in their lives. I even had to send somebody to pick them up at our house because they were being harassed—people with guns walking around our house, and so

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Senate to hold marathon hearings to meet March 23 deadline

By Michael Lim Ubac

BOOING any objection from defense and prosecution lawyers, the Senate impeachment court will hold marathon hearings starting Monday to be able to meet the self-imposed deadline for ending the trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona on March 23.

At a press conference following a caucus yesterday, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile announced that a consensus was reached to hold hearings from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. from Monday to Thursday instead of the afternoon sessions in the past 24 trial days.

"Everybody wants to finish it before we go on a break, if we can do it," Enrile told reporters. "We are trying by choice to the people that the members of the Senate and the Senate are willing to work overtime to satisfy the desire of the public to finish this case the soonest possible time."

Enrile said he would meet with defense and prosecution counsels on Friday to discuss the proposed hearing schedule. If rejected, the trial would continue in previous format if the July deadline, he said he expected the trial to last until May.

If the new schedule is followed, senators will have to forego the daily legislative sessions, Enrile said.

According to Majority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, some senators had qualms about this marathon hearings.

"If it does not ensure the completion of presentation of evidence by the defense, what's the point of having a morning and afternoon hearing? We might as well continue with just the afternoon hearing," Sotto said.

Clinic for older senators

While not opposed to the proposal, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago expressed apprehension of the logistical nightmare it would entail.

"You might as well have a mobile clinic on standby for the older senators," quipped Santiago, who is suffering from Sjogren's syndrome.

The senator disclosed that the last time such an unprolonged trial was held was during martial law when she, as Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge, heard the case he alleged illegal assembly of students from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University.

The students led by the late martyr Liliosa Hilao, Boni Tiamzon, Cesar Garcia and Rodolfo Santos had protested against Ferdinand Marcos being illegally committed to the army by Fort Bonifacio Marcos.

Not question of speed

Rep. Tito Sotiado, a prosecution spokesperson, welcomed the extended trial hours. "It may mean after Holy Week, the decision will be promulgated," he said in a statement.

In a text message, defense lawyer Tranquil Salvador III said, "That will be hard since we still have to present our witnesses and documentary evidence for each day. I think it is unfair for the Chief Justice if the rules are changed in the middle of the proceedings. It is not a question of speed but simple right to be heard."

Prosecution feels vindicated but won't celebrate 'until fat lady sings'

By Cynthia D. Baluss

THE PROSECUTION panel yesterday said the Senate impeachment court's denial of the defense motion to suppress the subpoenaed bank records of Chief Justice Renato Corona was a "welcome development" in their fight to recover lost bonds.

"But we must not lose sight of the process which saw the courts forced to court public accountability," Rolo Rep. Neil Tupas Jr., the lead prosecutor, said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Tupas said the prosecution also felt "relieved" by the decision of the impeachment court to just admit a private counsel, Attorney Agnes Z. Jiz reviewing his case when Senator Judge Marian Defensor-Santiago was talking.

He said both decisions were a "good sign" for the prosecution as it was preparing for the defense's presentation of evidence next week.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, another prosecutor, said the prosecution's team vindicated by the impeachment court when it denied the motion to suppress evidence.

This, he said, only meant that the Senate did not err in issuing the subpoenas on Corona's bank accounts, and that it was necessary for the defense to rebut this as an illegal act and therefore, inadmissible in court.

Colmenares said Corona should focus on presenting evidence to counter the prosecution's evidence rather than resorting to surprises that were damaging to him. "We are now shifting in full gear to preparation for the defense presentation next week," he said.

Colmenares said the prosecution was eagerly awaiting the decision of the impeachment court on its order to the defense to show cause why it should not be held in contempt for holding a press conference and displaying the contents of being bribed by Makabulang with P100 million to favor the prosecution.

Marlene Rep. Romeo Quimbo, the prosecution's spokesperson, said the Senate's unanimous decision to accept the Pillard documents only proved that a writ for them important to accept evidence than inconclusive.

"Accepting evidence only strengthens whatever verdict it will render. That on its own strongly recognizes the fine line," Quimbo said.

Asked if the prosecution felt victorious with the Senate's rulings decisions, he said: "I think we all learned our lesson, but we don't celebrate until the fat lady sings."

Prosecution scores win: CJ bank records admitted evidence

From page A1

consideration of the court to comply fully with Article 2 of the articles of impeachment. But the Presidential Spokesperson, the presiding officer, said she really is like a first-base coach in his office.

Enrile said the impeachment court would issue a "lengthy and formal" written decision on the matter on the "date most convenient" on March 12.

'Unanimous'

He refused to discuss how the ruling was arrived at, but one senator, who asked not to be named, said it was "unanimous."

"There were strong legal grounds articulated during the course of the motion hearing by and of the motion," the senator said to the Inquirer. Absent in the unanimous Senate Majority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Manila Defensor-Santiago.

Dollar deposits

Enrile left the door open to the court's admission of more prosecution evidence, specifically pertaining to Corona's dollar deposits, the opening of which is now the subject of a pending case in the Supreme Court.

Acting on motion by Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank), the high tribunal earlier issued a temporary restraining order preventing the impeachment court from scrutinizing the dollar accounts.

Last week, the prosecution said it was ruling to case after prosecuting the articles of impeachment, but "reserved" the right to present more evidence be Article 2 should the Supreme Court later on rule to allow the opening of the dollar accounts.

Violation

Asked to explain how the Senate ruling would relate to the pending case in the Supreme Court, Enrile said: "That's another matter. Let the Supreme Court decide the case. If they'll say that there is violation of RA 6426, so be it. But that violation does not imply or mean that the evidence, admitted in violation of the law, could not be admitted in evidence."

Republic Act No. 6426 governs the Foreign Currency Deposit Act.

"Now, the result of a decision that there's a violation means that whoever was the one responsible for the release will have to go to jail when a criminal case is filed against that person, whoever he is or she is, under the penalties provided in the laws," he added.

Section 11 of the law states that "all foreign currency deposits authorized under this Act ... shall hereby declared as and considered of an absolutely confidential nature and, except upon the written permission of the depositor, in an instance shall (they) be examined, inquired or looked into by any person, government official, bureau or office whether judicial or administrative or justice."

Defense lawyers cited this provision in their motion to suppress evidence on Corona's bank records.

Enrile made it clear that the ruling proclaimed only to this motion. He said the impeachment court would issue another ruling on the blocking in its entirety which pieces of evidence that the prosecution formally offered last Friday would be admitted.

The defense panel has until today to submit its formal opposition to the offered evidence.

Account numbers exist

Enrile noted that the defense motion cited cases in which pieces of evidence were excluded because the "unwarranted search or seizure is done by the state or its agents like the police, the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation), and other law enforcement people."

In the case of Corona's bank records that the prosecution subpoenaed, the defense officer said "there's no clear showing that it (bank) was done by the government and so far, in the four motions, there's no question that these alleged fatal defects exist and manifest in court."

If the bank records had been pulled by a "private party," Enrile said the "exclusionary rule" would not apply. The rule means that a piece of evidence would be inadmissible if it was gathered in a manner that violated constitutional rights.

No exclusionary provision

Enrile noted that both RA 6426 and RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law) did not contain the "exclusionary provision which "expressly excludes or provides the admissibility of the contents of bank deposits when they're illegally released to the public."

Told that he had pointed to reinstate Atty. Leid of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as the one responsible for the leak, the senator said: "My opinion was simply an opinion of their document. We're still in the stage of it."

But what if it was proven later on that it was a BSP official who released Corona's bank records? Enrile replied: "We are going to decide this case on the basis of what's been presented by the parties at that point. If it was done by government agents, then they would have to suffer the penalties."

Until the Supreme Court resolves the dollar deposits issue, the impeachment court would not receive evidence on the deposits submitted by the prosecution even expressly awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court.

Impeach court not bound by rules of evidence

By Jeremy Reing

IT DOES NOT matter whether the Senate impeachment court is required or rejected the double-talk standard set recently presented by the House prosecution team against Chief Justice Renato Corona, a lawyer and professor.

In a text message, Rodolfo Macalintal, an independent analyst of the Corona trial, said the questions on the bank records were "not material because no judgment" on the sequence judges will decide on the issue of their own personal beliefs and prejudices."

"But being a political body, its members, mostly not lawyers, are not bound by any rules of evidence or rules of court—although such rules may serve as guide them, but not binding upon them. There is no standard of proof to convict or acquit so it does not matter if evidence already introduced or made part of the records is admitted or rejected," Macalintal said.

The election lawyer said senator-judges were different from judges in the regular courts.

"The senators are not even required to explain their verdict which cannot be appealed to any court or agency. But they will be answerable only to the people on Election Day," he said.

Defense bows to court decision; to block prosecution's offer of evidence

By Marlon Ramos

LAWYERS of Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday said they respected the decision of the Senate impeachment court to deny their motion to exclude Corona's bank records as evidence in his impeachment trial, but they would block the prosecution's offer of evidence.

Tranquil Salvador III, one of the defense panel's spokespersons, said the Senate decision covered only the defense motion to suppress evidence and not the prosecution's formal offer of evidence.

"We have yet to file our objection to the formal offer of evidence. We will file it today and the (Senate's) will have to resolve it by Thursday," Salvador said in a mobile phone interview.

Asked if they would appeal the Senate's ruling, he said: "We are still considering our options. But however we will just file our objection and not appeal."

The election lawyer said senator-judges were different from judges in the regular courts.

"The senators are not even required to explain their verdict which cannot be appealed to any court or agency. But they will be answerable only to the people on Election Day," he said.

At least 15 exhibits

The prosecution's motion for admission of evidence consisted of at least 15 exhibits, including government signature cards, bank certifications and bank statements.

Based on the testimony of a PSBank president and a manager of the Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI), the prosecution said Corona kept P82.75 million in the two banks in 2010, but declared only P13 million in cash and investments in his SALN for that year.

"We are willing to show documents that would establish that are not talking of opening the (dollar) accounts," Enrile said.

What's interesting that these accounts may based on the evidence presented so far, were not in the name of Corona, expressed provision in the Republic Acts 1405 and 6426 mentioned to exclude them as evidence when allowed as evidence," he said.

Vague position

Enrile also sought to clarify the prosecution's vague position on whether it was "withdrawing" or "terminating" its presentation of evidence on the five remaining articles of impeachment.

In a letter, the prosecution said it had "terminated the presentation of evidence" on Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. But the letter however neither stated whether the panel was satisfied that it could still present their own evidence on those charges.

Enrile said the court would issue a formal ruling "in the proper time." But he said: "The court will leave no one due on clarified matters that could not understanding and the understanding of the court is that those articles ... are deemed as if they were not in the articles of impeachment filed before the court."

The decision of the court will be made on the consolidation of the prosecution," he said.

Lawyer only gets slap on the wrist for 'hear no Miriam' antic

From page A1

punishment and was ceding its case against Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Senate President Pro Tem. Jinggoy Estrada had called attention to Aguirre for being "very derogatory" to the Senate impeachment court.

'Correct penalty'

But in a magnanimous display of solidarity, Santiago told reporters that she accepted the apology that Aguirre offered in interviews with radio and TV networks earlier in the day. He reported on earlier statement that he was sorry for causing the entire discomfort but was constrained by his position that he could not help but take side at Aguirre.

"It was a genuine act of goal," she told the Inquirer. She added that should she suddenly fall dead during her next conference, her next of kin should be advised to "donate her organs so that lawyers who apparently need them."

Santiago, 66, is on a food guilt-free when asked if the package would include her brain.

Lesson for rpal

The senator also said she was "underwhelmed" by Aguirre's 50 or so statements from Quezon titles showed up at the first, on guise to show their support for him.

"I was elected by millions of people in the May 2010 elections so I am not likely to be impressed by 50 people," she explained.

"That qual lawyer really had to be taught a lesson.... He had a little prepared speech and he was completely defiant. That's the reason why we send a judge's to Sandiganbayan," Santiago noted.

After the Aguirre incident last week, Santiago said she went home and proceeded straight to the bathroom and "let the pounding her could of fell in the floor."

Afterward, she ran to her room on the second floor, "set the Jacuzzi to get a massage and after that, I just fell straight asleep. I have been asleep for the last three days."

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Assistant Editor Tony Bengwasan

Across the NATION

Building collapses, 8 hurt as earthquake hits Masbate

By Pia Arguelles, Jonas Cabiles Soliva and Ray Mendoza
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Kristine Alave in Manila

WINDOWS were shattered, an abandoned building collapsed and people rushed out of homes, offices and schools in a scene of mayor likened to a street fiesta but with "everyone anxious and panicky" as a 5.2-magnitude quake struck Masbate City yesterday.

The quake, according to volcanologists, was triggered by the outer fault line responsible for the 1999 earthquake that killed four elders and Regrida City.

"It happened close to the surface," said Jesus Salcedo, of the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"The Philippine fault line may supposedly end any of its tectonics moved," she said.

The 1,200-km fault line, which extends from Luzon to Mindanao, triggered the 7.9-magnitude quake that killed hundreds in Baguio City and other parts of Central Luzon in 1990. Yesterday the fault line moved again to trigger the Masbate quake, according to Phivolcs.

Socorro Tanon, mayor of Masbate City said the small but solid were having breakfast at home when the quake struck. His wife ran outside like everyone did in his neighborhood, said Tanon.

When he went to City Hall, Tanon said the same was reported many times over—people including schoolchildren, scampering for safety to the streets.

"It was like a fiesta. It was like there was a parade and everyone was watching," said Tanon. "But everyone was anxious and panicky."

Tanon said an abandoned building near the shore collapsed, worry structure in the village of Bapor collapsed. A commercial building on Quezon Street in the city downtown suffered heavy damages, he said.

Masbate disaster officials said at least eight persons were wounded by falling debris from at least 20 buildings that suffered damages due to the quake.

Aside from Masbate City, the quake also struck Sorsogon and Albay past 7 a.m., according to Ed Laguerta, resident Phivolcs volcanologist in Bicol.

At the Bogabo Salcedo, the epicenter of the quake was just 23 km below the surface. No tsunami warning has been raised, however, she said.

Mayor Tanon said residents left at least five aftershocks past 8 a.m. He said he ordered classes suspended in all levels.

Electricity was cut off in parts of the city, he said.

Government workers ordered off a commercial building and a hospital what have cracks.

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SCENE OF RUIN An abandoned building in Masbate City collapsed in the aftermath of the quake that struck the province yesterday. PHOTO BY ROY MENDOZA

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Gambler suspects cheating, robs shop

SIGA CITY—A betting streak is carried after players in an illegal gambling shop here all night prompted a 31-year-old gambler to rob the gaming shop yesterday, according to police.

Senior Insp. Antonio Bonifacio, city police chief, said police arrested Domingo Abellada at a checkpoint in a village here an hour after Abellada tried to escape with P10,000 in cash that he took from the cashier of the online gaming station here.

Police seized a pistol and suspected shotgun from Abellada, said Bonifacio.

Another police source said Abellada felt cheated by the computer at the online gaming shop and decided to get his money back by forcing the cashier's cashier to hand over the cash at gunpoint.

Abellada had help from two companions who escaped when they noticed the cashier's lone guard and took his gun.

The cashier operated 20 hours daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Police chief Bonifacio said Abellada's two companions were still at large. Jones Escudero Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

DOJ orders NBI probe of cops in kidnap-slay

By Marlon Ramos in Manila
and Marissa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct its own investigation into the kidnapping and murder of a Chinese Filipino trader whose decomposing body was found inside a septic tank in San Pedro, Laguna, on Feb. 23.

Speaking with reporters, De Lima said she would also ask Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Philippine National Police chief Nicanor Bartolome to look into the "involved custody" the three policemen charged with the murder of Jee Ick-joo.

"We need to dig deeper. There's a need for Robredo to extinguish to make sure that there will be justice given, the wording and sense of the principal accused," the justice secretary said.

Jee, who was traveled to a loading business, was reported missing on Jan. 20, more than a month before his body was discovered in a septic tank of an abandoned warehouse in Barangay San Vicente, San Pedro town.

The justice secretary said the victim's husband and her siblings sought her help since the suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Supt. Rommel Mirasol, were still in active police service.

"Maybe asking for can help given the standing and status of the principal respondents, Mirasol and Mirasol. I understand he [said to be with] the PNP's Special Action Force and Intelligence Group," De Lima told reporters.

Mirasol, a former spokesperson of the National Capital Region Police Office, has been directed to report to Camp Crame after he ruled no deputy chief of the administration and electronic division of the Central Visayas police.

After they went on stand, the two other suspects—Police SPO1 Cesar I. Clifford Ompad and Police Senior Ins.—turned themselves in to their superiors at the Laguna police office on Monday.

"[The suspects] must be subjected to rational custody which is normally done if PNP officials are under investigation. They should be confined to their quarters and should not be going around freely," De Lima said.

She said the victim's family found Paul Mirasol's story from their time the police officer first met near the victim's house in Manila.

De Lima said the NBI should look into the possible criminal liabilities of the operators and members of the warehouse where the suspects dumped Ng's body.

She said while it was initially reported that the place was an abandoned warehouse, police investigators disclosed that the area was guarded by a caretaker and a watchdog.

"How can it be considered abandoned when there was a caretaker and a security guard? They should be indicted also. They supposedly heard that the suspects were laughing before the body was placed inside the septic tank," De Lima said.

"I suppose they can be considered accessories to the crime," she added.

> "They should be confined to their quarters and should not be going around freely..."

'PACIFIC ANGEL'

GI mission in Albay targets 10,000 people

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer S. Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 10,000 of the poorest of the poor in Albay were covered in areal thanksgiving of One medical and dental services contract of Ashevi's ten soldiers in a mission viewed with suspicion by the militant left.

The humanitarian mission, put together by the US and Philippine military, started giving free medical and dental services to at least 700 residents of Albay on Monday.

Dubbed "Pacific Angel," the mission is being carried out by 160 American and Filipino military personnel, said Lt. Col. Augusto Gatbe, of the Philippine Air Force and key player in the mission.

Lt. Col. Michael Black, of the US Air Force and head of Pacific Angel, said more than 10,000 residents of Albay were expected to benefit from the mission.

At the start of the mission on Sunday, at least 19 US soldiers put up a tent hospital in this city. Forty equipment and supply were flown and the mission was just a "publicity gimmick to divert attention from its real purpose, which is to make the presence of US troops in the country more acceptable."

Missions like the one brought by US soldiers in Albay according to Bayan Rizal spokesperson John Concepcion, "are always paired with surveillance operations and spying."

A US MILITARY C-130 plane arrives on March 1 in Legazpi City bringing equipment and supplies for a medical mission.

brought in about two US military cargo planes.

US soldiers also provided free medical, dental and optometry services to residents in the towns of Guinobatan and Daraga, Albay.

Other US soldiers repaired classrooms in this city and in the town of Daraga. They replaced roofs, ceilings, windows and doors. They also fixed electrical systems and painted walls in the classrooms.

The mission, however, was viewed with suspicion by the left. A spokesperson of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Albay according to Bayan Rizal spokesperson John Concepcion, "are always paired with surveillance operations and spying."

Palo diocese has new archbishop

TACLOBAN CITY— The new Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Palo, Leyte Dec will be installed on May 9 at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Palo, Leyte.

Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto will lead the installation rites for the 57-year-old Dec, according to Fr. Salvador Mercado, the chancellor of the Palo archdiocese.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Dec as the new archbishop of the Archdiocese of Palo on Feb. 25.

Dec replaced Archbishop Jose Palma, who was appointed archbishop of Cebu.

Alvero said Dec's appointment as archbishop "was an answered prayer for all of us."

The archbishop of Palo, Dec will lead some 1.2 million catholics. The archdiocese is composed of 63 parishes, Jose Rodriguez, Inquirer Visayas

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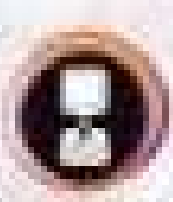

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'It's more fun than an airport' in Subic

By Tonette Orejas
Subic Bay Freeport

AN ENTIRELY different plan for the idle Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) is taking shape and Roberto Garcia, chair and administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), sums it up simply: "It's more fun than an airport."

"[The SBIA] will cease to be an airport," he said during an interview at roundtable discussion at the Subic Bay Freeport on Saturday.

Announced in his "State of the Freeport Address" earlier, the plan shocked some and excited many.

The plan is one of the "out-of-the-box" solutions proposed by Garcia to attract more investments to Subic and increase its revenue streams.

"We will convert the airport into a family-oriented, integrated, international tourist destination. Something like Sentosa [in Singapore]," he says.

Over 20 million tourists visited that Singapore island resort last year, and Garcia is looking at three million tourists to come to the new Subic project, which might need some $1 billion to begin.

Here's why SBMA is doing a drastic change of use of the SBIA land, a prime piece of real estate which spans 300 hectares and formerly the Cubi Point Air Station (Redbird Field) of the US Navy.

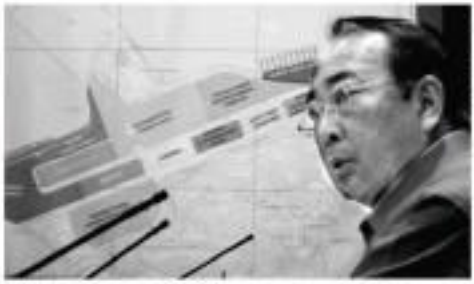
The airport, formerly home to massive giant Perlik, has been underutilized, causing its income to drop from P426.2 million in 2005 to P96.6 million in 2011, and nursing after debt servicing an average loss of P530 million for almost 20 years.

The largest drawdown calls for decisive action, Garcia says.

Going line items using existing three-letter terminal, costing its income to drop from P426.2 million in 2005 to P96.6 million in 2011, and nursing after debt servicing an average loss of P530 million for almost 20 years.

The largest drawdown calls for decisive action, Garcia says.

Going line items using existing three-letter terminal, costing some recent years worth P1.1 billion and P96 million, respectively.



SBMA CHAIR and Administrator Roberto Garcia sees the redevelopment of the Subic Bay International Airport as one of the innovative solutions to attract investments to the Subic Bay Freeport. A-CHRIS

Subic survival

Also, the free port has only 300 ha of land left to put on lease and there are not contiguous. The bulk of the former naval base of the United States is protected forests.

Garcia says the SBIA has "lucrative redevelopment" because of the Clark International Airport at the Clark Freeport, a 40-minute drive from the Subic Bay Freeport via the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

The conversion of the SBIA, he says, will secure the survival of Subic.

The US Navy built the airport during the Korean War in the 1950s. It was rehabilitated when former Sen. Richard Gordon chaired the SBMA immediately after the departure of the US Navy in 1992.

"It's easier to use [the] airport[s] than to build a new one," Garcia says. Preserving the area by converting terminal, which is 92 percent underutilized, is going to be stepped up, he says.

He says Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. welcomed the SBMA conversion plan and described it as a "very good project."

The plan consists of landing convention centers, business process outsourcing parks, a science and technology center, casinos, theme parks, a golf course and luxury villas, among others.

"We will make Subic an iconic destination. It is going to be a mixed community, which is important, especially for Ocampo Gubat," he says.

"We're offering 50-year leases. The beauty of this project is what hoteliers call shovel-ready because you have existing infrastructure and the runway will be the main avenue."

While this, the job of the SBMA is convert the the 1,036 hectares is now lived, he adds.

Upland Benguet folk invoke spirits' blessings for mini-hydro project

By Maurice Malanes
Kapangan, Benguet

BEFORE SUNRISE on Saturday, a group of people gathered by the bank of Kipkipan River in Kapangan, Benguet, for two sacred rites, which they consider important and historic.

Kipkipan is one of five tributaries in the remote village of Pudong (population: 1,500) in Kapangan. The waterways are among the sources of the Amburayan River, which passes through Ilocos Sur before emptying into the West Philippine Sea.

The first rite was called "bayoc," during which Akadu is set, a "mambunong" (also called "mambunong" or traditional priest), installed and prayed to the "kabunyan" (spirit believed to inhabit the rivers and forests).

He smiled and prayed that the two pigs sacrificed for the ceremony, along with jars of "tapey" (rice wine) and money (coins and bills) offered, would appease the kamangans.

The second rite was called "uno-uno." Two pigs were sacrificed and offered to the spirits of ancestors as request for them to confer with the kamangans and grant the prayers and wishes of the community, Avat said.

The main prayer and wishes of the community, which hosted the two rites, included safety, good health (for those involved) and the success of a planned mini-hydropower project.

The rites were meant to seek the permission and blessings of the gods and spirits for the project, said lawyer Crisaldo Bardenas, chair of the newly formed Cosero Environment Independent Development Corp. (Cosidec).

In celebration, community members danced the "tayaw" and "unduog" (which mimic flying eagles and other birds) to the beat and rhythm of gongs and "kalibbud" (native percussion instrument).

The music echoed to the surrounding mountains and sacred Rivershine and other caves, which have continued to enable the existence of the community's ancestors.

Soul of approval

The rites sealed an earlier series of public consultations on the proposed mini-hydro project. The project was also endorsed by the governments of Kapangan and Benguet.

Bardenas and other leaders of the community-based Cosidec have convinced their fellow villagers of the richness and vision of the corporation. Under Cosidec's setup, each family head is a shareholder.

Bardenas said he and the other environmentalists believe could end the setup of other energy firms in the country and have concluded that the option they took was the most beneficial for the community.

Joel Alangpah, president of the Bagiuo City Association of Barangay Captains, agreed with Bardenas.

"This Ifugao setup is better than those of other energy firms that share only a very minuscule part of their profits through the local government's share of the national wealth taxes," said Alangpah, whose mother is from Pudong.

For Rodolfo Lana, a farmer and shareholder, the Ifugao project will tap fully the water resource in Kipkipan. "Water here is just flowing anyway so using it to generate electricity is definitely an added value," he said.

Projected power

The project targets to generate 4.8 megawatts of electricity. It seeks to build two plants: Pudong I, which aims to generate 2 MW, and Pudong II, which is in operation of the first plant and targets to produce 1.6 MW.

The two plants require no dams, which used to create apprehension because of other upland hill's experience of displacement when two big dams—the 75-MW Ambuklao in Bokod town and the 100-MW Binga in Itogon town, both in Benguet—were built in the 1950s.

Instead, each of the two plants requires a small weir—more than waist-deep—to catch enough water which, conveyed through a pen-stock (pipe which regulates water flow), turns a turbine.

Similarly, the elders of the community had seen how Americans taught how a waterfall could be harnessed to generate electricity for lighting in Camp Chapin, just a two-hour hike from Kipkipan, during World War II. The smog, or one point, burned varieties (Pudong Sergio Oamerita, his immediate family and others aides.

The two plants are projected to generate a net income of P100 million a year, Bardenas said.

Both require at least P600 million to build, which Cosidec cannot afford. So Cosidec partnered with an American company, which, Bardenas said, architectural will share income and were willing to put up the capital.

So Cosidec continues to iron out the necessary paper work with the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the project, barring unforeseen problems, will start construction within the year to early next year, Bardenas said.

But as community members are excited about the project, they have to address an apparent crucial issue—the expansion of soppon plantations in neighboring Barangay Sagubo, which forms part of the whole watershed that feeds the Kipkipan River and other tributaries.

Former Pudong barangay chief Ruben Sabo acknowledges this problem. "But with the help of the DENR and civic groups, we are reforesting half-area because rehabilitating watersheds is integral to the [Cosidec] project," he said.

And community members, being shareholders and stakeholders of the corporation, have established their own nurseries where they can get seedlings to plant when the rain comes in June.

"Our nurseries have seedlings of narra, pine, various fruit trees and Arabica coffee," said Pepar Sole, a kagawad (village council member) of Pudong. "The beauty is that school children are helping maintain these nurseries."

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To continue the momentum in 2011, PhilPlans recently declared its rallying call for the year, "Driving for Excellence." More than 1,000 sales associates from Metro Manila and nearby provinces attended the Sales Kick Off held at the Megatrade Hall 1, SM Megamall. The latest mantra aims to create a culture of excellence for PhilPlans. The event signals the start of a nationwide kick-off caravan to announce the upcoming National Awards Convention: Baguio.

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PhilPlans' nationwide sales force gets all fired up in 2011. Through the years, PhilPlans has remained committed to its mission of helping Filipino families secure their future.

More than 250 sales associates are slated to attend the 23rd National Awards Convention to be held for three nights at the prestigious Baguio Country Club starting Thursday, March 3, 2011. Delegates can expect to gain knowledge from the financial services industry's top producers and managers. What's more, delegates will be treated to fun and glamorous activities every night of the convention.

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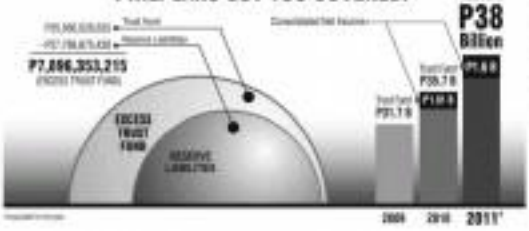

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OPINION

Yellow over Inclined

Middle way on mining

AS IN the impeachment court, so it was at the recent mining forum in Makati City, where pro- and anti-mining advocates engaged in a heated face-off, rapped by the right of arguably the country's most powerful businessman, Manny V. Pangilinan, losing his cool and calling the environmentalist-action of one of the country's most influential families, Gina Lopez, a liar.

EDITORIAL We cannot the concept of yesterday—in the impeachment court something teemed with clichés, the testimony classified as such eventually getting thrown out and declared inadmissible. At the mining forum, words akin to hearsay were also present, but not as one of the bright minds in the room pointed it out correctly, that when Pangilinan and Lopez were trading barbs on the effect mining can have on rural communities, both of them, really, were recalling second-hand testimony. Perhaps they've seen tangible evidence of it on their occasional visits to mining areas, but neither of them has actually lived there, to experience first-hand, in the raw, how it is to be at the receiving end of this wealth-producing but also injurious activity about which they were now at each other's throats.

The right person to have challenged Pangilinan's apologia for the mining sector was not Lopez, however well-intentioned or deep into the cause she might be. The right person should have been an actual inhabitant of any one of the country's mining areas who could testify, in his or her own words, and certainly more eloquently than Lopez could ever manage to Pangilinan could ever hope to strive, whether gouging huge swaths of the country inside out to extract the mineral riches said to be underneath, displacing residents and perhaps turning the land into a howling wilderness for good, would be all worth it.

But from the ranks of farmers, fishermen and tribal minorities, the marginal and destitute folk who have lived for generations in those remote, underdeveloped areas where mining often occurs and that inevitably have to bear the brunt of its aftereffects, no one was at the forum to speak on their behalf. Because, as former elections commissioner and now Meralco management consultant Christian Monsod ruefully pointed out in his speech: "It is unfortunate that two major stakeholders on the issue of mining were not invited to speak today—the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Department of Agriculture."

Egregious omission, indeed—and quite symptomatic of the long way the mining debate has to go to arrive at a consensus that's fair, inclusive and acceptable to all sectors. As pressed, to hear their most ardent boosts don't expect one cent in tax up to 2016, shoulders, pulse pointers. On the one hand, the mining industry and its proponents have only used the rosiest economic projections—$940 billion of potential profits from reportedly the fifth most mineralized country in the world—to push for full-scale mining as almost the magic pill to drag the Philippines out of its economic doldrums. Meanwhile, they're quick to dismiss any resulting environmental damage as minimal (only 62,000 hectares, or 0.2 percent of the country's land mass, is covered by mining claims, Chamber of Mines director Gerard Brimo said at the forum).

The unrelenting side, on the other hand, points to the staggering devastation of lands, ecosystems and human communities that mining inevitably leaves in its wake—and all for a pittance, really, as the industry's average contribution to the Philippine GDP from 2000-2009, for instance, was a dismal .81 percent, rising barely to 1.36 percent in 2010. As for the claim that mining can significantly generate jobs, that, too, seems a mirage. Its share of total employment in 2010 averaged merely 0.5 percent, or about 197,000 workers.

Is "responsible mining" possible, a middle way that allows the country to tap its mineral wealth while keeping to the minimum the harm such activity imposes on the environment and the inhabitants (unfortunately, also often the poorest and most defenseless citizens) of the affected areas? Unless that elusive but nonnegotiable middle ground is reached, President Aquino's administration would do well to proceed with caution in this complex issue. The irresistible push for greater human labor in mining should, instead, prod the sister to restore that it is not unexpected nor harrowing long-term national welfare for short-term economic gains. This is not a game between moneyed factions alone. The entire nation, including its future generations, will live with the consequences of a badly crafted mining policy.

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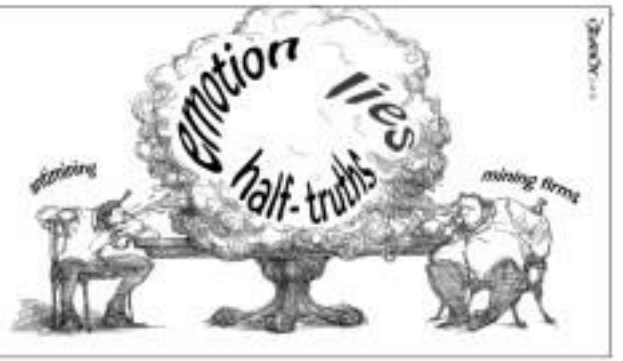

A requiem for Gani Yambot

IT WILL be the fate of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to hold second-generation service for its publisher, Isagani Yambot, tomorrow night. This is no easy obituary to write.

I first came across the name Isagani Yambot when I was a journalism student at the University of the Torres. One professor in newswriting, Jose P. Bautista, managing editor of the Manila Times, had told us to get copies of the newspaper's clickbook, among the authors of the slim handbook were Isagani Yambot and Cirilo Ojeda. Ichan, now editor in chief of the Manila Bulletin.

But it was many years later before I met him personally, and the fact worked with him. We were Malacañang reporters during the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos—the new boring daddy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

At that time, there were only seven national newspapers, five morning dailies (Manila Times, Manila Chronicle, Manila Daily Bulletin, Philippines Herald and Bagong Buhay), a Tagalog newspaper) and two afternoon dailies (Taliba and Daily Mirror and Pilipino Mirror).

The Times Mirror had a total of four reporters covering Malacañang, two for each paper. Gani Yambot and Manuel Salak Jr. covered for the Times, and Silvino Lapuz and Leopoldo Dayrit for the Mirror. The rest of the papers had only one reporter each: the veteran Teodoro Locsin for the Chronicle, and tenants Bigwas, also a veteran, for the Bulletin, Esperanza Cabanting and Celestino Vega covered for the Herald and for Bagong Buhay, Jing Dayrit. I was hired for The Evening News. (I have to mention many other journalists because our work and careers were intertwined.)

President Marcos's office traveled to the provinces to deliver speeches, shake hands and distribute largesse to the local government units in preparation for his reelection bid. The Malacañang Press Corps went with him. The Times and the Mirror having two reporters each, one went with the President while the other stayed behind at the Press Office.

We took the train from Manila to Tuguegarao in Cagayan, where we transferred to cars for the trip up to Baguio. Gani is much older. My usual riding companionship were either Gani Yambot or Greg Macabenta. Sometimes we'd hear wars we'd be bored and preferred to stay behind. Anywhere the President went up north, our base was Baguio, where we stayed at the Pines Hotel. Gani and I often shared a room because we were the two youngest.

In Baguio, we met two nurses working for the Baguio General Hospital. We always invited them to dinner and dancing at the hotel. I could see that Gani and one of the nurses were getting very, very close. (In the Presidents went up to Baguio, he was rumored his fellow Times reporter, Manuel Salak, that he (Marcos) would be the one to go with the President.

Journalism is a very unequal profession. Whether you are editor or reporter, you are always treated for time, always rushing to beat the deadline. That's a difficult, often weak, mole in the bars to drink, unwind and relax.

The Malacañang reporters were to the night clubs on Roxas Boulevard. One favorite was the Sportsman, one of the most popular night spots then, and where I met two favorite hostesses, now called guest relations officers (or GROs).

Gani usually sold me to horny up. There we would rush to the Sportsman and unwind and dance the afternoon away with our GROs and drinks and music and dancing until the very hours of the morning.

When I was news editor of The Evening News, I had an all-girl desk, some of the youngest and most beautiful journalists of that time: Julie Yap, Bobbie Malay, Minnie Woolbrayton, Carmen Revilacuia, Mona Cabili, Melody Lacson, and a few more.

After the afternoon papers were put to bed, we were usually visited by male colleagues from the other papers. Gani was one of them.

When martial law was declared, all the papers except the Daily Express were closed down.

The government tried to persuade Chino Roces to reopen the Manila Times, but the old man was determined that he would never reopen it while Marcos was president. So his brother-in-law, Kokoy Syquia, opened his own paper, borrowing the name of the Times, and stole out with the Times Journal.

Kokoy recruited the golden editors and reporters of the closed down Times, including Gani and to editor, Jose Luna Castro.

When Kokoy was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia, he took Gani with him. "For God's sake," he told Gani, "grow a mustache first before going to Saudi Arabia. You will be raped there." Gani had very fair skin and was good-looking. So Gani started growing a mustache and a goatee and only after weeks did he dare go to Saudi.

Through the years, Gani went through the diplomatic corps and back to journalism while I worked for many other papers. He became publisher of the Inquirer. That was the time I was invited by the Inquirer's editor in chief, Larry Henderson, to enter a submarine—the luxurious office Lopezgani had on the new Chronicle.

We elected Gani board member of the Association of Philippine Journalists, also known as Plaridel. When I found that he had suffered a heart attack, I went to visit him in the hospital. He was very painful, not during the surgery itself, but afterwards.

Later, I heard that he had undergone gastric bypass surgery but that he was recovering beautifully. I was in Cebu when I got the news that sad City where my cellphone rang. There was a text message. Gani had died of a heart attack after he was discharged from the hospital.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Truth hurts

IN THEORY, Renato Corona does not have to appear in court. In theory, he can always say the prosecution hasn't really proven anything. It hasn't proven corruption. It hasn't proven hidden wealth. It hasn't proven bias.

And true enough, it hasn't, at least not straightforwardly. For reasons that one only in part to the prosecutors' lack of trolling skills, though as the star newsgate keepy-uppying use, there's that too. The preparations of the articles of impeachment was haphazard. From given the lawyers with which the indictment was made, even given the fact that it was prepared by congressmen—a group of people known to have a collective IQ that would put the weight of a hatchbed dollar to shame—it would have been done better.

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There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Poll blasts People Power mirage

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

The survey also found that a majority of 57 percent are undecided because they do not know enough yet about the trial. Another 17 percent would continue removal from office, while 17 percent are hedging. 5 percent think he should be acquitted, while 3 percent "definitely want him dismissed."

Based on these results, pollster Dr. Ana Tabunda Leyko Jr. stated Mr. Aquino no-shift the deployment of his vast presidential powers from his single-minded obsession to smear Corona and irresponsibly damage the independence of the Supreme Court to other important national concerns, such as revitalizing the faltering economy and alleviating poverty.

The survey results show a public increasingly becoming apathetic and disinterested to the impeachment proceedings. The survey was conducted in the midst of a blitz by the prosecution that bombarded the mass media with a heavy tonnage of documents purporting to show millions of pesos in Corona's bank accounts, and in number of bank case papers unauthorized as to the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

The survey results suggest that an extended trial would not do the senator judges and the administration any good, as the public would rather focus its attention on pressing problems. The public is really hurting, with 60 percent thinking that the country is "going to the dogs," according to Leyko.

He also said people were losing interest in the impeachment trial because it had become highly technical and legalistic.

The survey results suggest that the Senate impeachment court has gained the confidence of the public, which expects it to conduct a fair and just trial. This is why 86 percent say they will respect whatever decision it will make on the case.

According to Leyko, of the 611 percent of Filipinos who are anxious over where the country is headed, 40 percent are undecided and 21 percent feel the country is headed in the wrong direction. Only 39 percent see the country is on the right track. In the first few months of the Aquino administration, those saying it was in the right direction was 76 percent. The survey results represent a sharp drop.

However, the survey's 39 percent who are with those who welcome the Aquino administration, which has been introduced by the largely adoring and uncritical media coverage of its first 18 months in office.

Taking a contrarian position, Leyko's survey results show that while President Aquino "continues to enjoy widespread popular support" across socioeconomic groups, there is "a common tendency to withhold judgment" on whether the Chief Justice should be removed from office. The public's dependence on the Presidency is "a natural response to [its] current attitudes on the Corona impeachment trial," says the report. Thus, an "overwhelming majority" of 66 percent say they will respect whatever the decision of the impeachment court will be. Only 8 percent will just possess rather ill feelings to the decision while 7 percent will be satisfied while 2 percent are undecided, according to the survey results.

This is not music to the ears of the Penalistas and its fellow Bonds that has been hysterically rolling in a frantic media campaign to save People Power initiative to put pressure on Corona to resign even before his trial has been completed. If the survey results are accurate, then the call for People Power is based on nothing more than a mirage of self-delusion.

Transgenders

I WAS having lunch the other day with some military officers when one of them suddenly asked, "How were your students' elections in UP?"

I honestly myself, knowing what the question was going to lead to, certainly not related to the lecture I had just given, which was on public health no-utility issues.

My human was right and within a few minutes, the lunch

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

became quite animated as I was bombarded with questions about all the headlines around my new university student elections in UP Diliman. One of the officers even remembered his name, Henri Ollet. Bond's legal name is Gabriel Ollet but prefers to be referred to as "she," a "transwoman" and the UP Student Council's first openly transgender chair. This election was quite radical with other gender-curious runners: Alex Castro, an open lesbian, won the post of vice chair, while another transgender, Ira Bringas, won as councilor.

The conversation with the officers focused on Bond: her party, us, I realized the officers were combining gender identity and sexual orientation, and in, equating homosexuality with transgenders. That's not surprising, given UP professors in medicine and psychology still make that common mistake. Given that March is Gender Awareness Month, I thought I should clear up the confusion, as I did, I think, with the officers. (I have to say I was quite pleased that they had such an interest in the issues, and were not in any way condescending about it.)

Sexual orientation

Let's deal first with sexual orientation, which in western psychology would have the following labels: heterosexual (men attracted to women, women attracted to men), homosexual (men attracted to men, women attracted to women), and bisexual (men attracted to men and women, women attracted to men and women). The term "gay" is also used, usually referring to men attracted to men while "lesbian" and "gay women" refers to women attracted to women. Gay has stronger connotations of an identity and political involvement—for example, "gay rights" or "gay activism."

It's not quite clear to me why we have so many terms in the Philippines, do we have local terms for "heterosexual" or "homosexual" because those terms were first coined only in the 19th century in Germany and originally had clinical or medical connotations. The "bading/bakla" is often used as a translation of "homosexual." But this is not quite correct. "Bakla" refers more to an effeminate male, rather than a sexual orientation.

Transgender is a term that was coined even more recently and refers to someone who lives between (thus, "trans") being male and female. "Bakla," in its earlier meaning, comes closer to transgender. A transgender is someone who believes he or she was born into the wrong body. Thus, Dr. Benjamin Bautista speaks of being a "transwoman" because, while born male, Bautista believes she should have been female. There are also "transmen," born females but convinced they should have been male.

"Trans" people are usually identified with cross-dressing, but mastering the transgender identity also involves modifications in voice, body movements, even the body itself, to become more like the sex they believe they should have been born into.

Another question I got from the military: Are transgenders the same as transsexuals? In fact, one officer followed it with a question about Bond. I told him Ollet was, you know, his handmaking a shopping matter.

The term transsexual is an older term that was used to refer to people who wanted surgical intervention for sexual reassignment. I have to clarify: there is no "shopping till" involved but reconstructive surgery. (Where don't ask me to describe the surgery.)

To summarize, transgenders and transsexuals are labels used around gender identity while homosexuals, heterosexuals and bisexuals refer to sexual orientation. Most homosexuals are comfortable with their biological sex and have no desire to cross-dress or to adopt behaviors of the other sex. And many transgenders are content with the sex of origin, though sometimes they undergo surgery, but do not really see as women.

Now, there's one way to tell both of these: that distinction with a brain trainer. You can have a transman who is attracted to men, which would mean that the transgender would be, in the terminology of western psychology, a heterosexual. Now if that transman becomes attracted to women and he remains a man, she will still be attracted to men, but now that she has become a he, will now be considered a gay man.

Simple, no?

Sexual discomfort

As a medical anthropologist, I keep emphasizing that culture plays an important role in configuring all these identities. In the Philippines and in most Southeast Asian countries, transgenders are very visible, allowed to cross-dress in public, even in school and at work. In UP, there is even an organization called UP Babaylan, which is an LGBT group, meaning an organization for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders, with transgenders dominating the majority of the membership. Both Henri Ollet and Ira Bringas, another transgender who made it into the UP Student Council, are members of UP Babaylan.

LGBT people have existed since time immemorial, long before those terms came about. In many societies, LGBTs were marginalized and had to live very secret, secluded lives. Of these, many suffered in abysmal circumstances. It was the way their lives and social existence/place had to be kept underground.

Today, with many LGBTs organizing for civil rights, there is more tolerance for sexual diversity, and has allowed them to come out of the shadows to live normal and healthier lives. There is still a long way to go, however, to integrate ourselves. I've lost count of the transgenders who graduate with honors, accompanied by proud parents to the stage during recognition ceremonies.

I did ask my military friends what the Armed Forces' policy is on homosexuals and transgenders. They smiled and one finally answered that there is in fact no official written policy. They said they were aware of homosexuals in their ranks, even among officers, and had no problems with their gay comrades. The one mentioned that gay men excelled when it came to combat and then added, mischievously, that they were also excellent in bed with their subalterns.

Transgenders? The officers said they didn't have problems having transgenders as civilian staff but that serving in the military was another matter, and the time wasn't right yet. I thought of the Philippine Military Academy, which didn't accept women until the 1990s. Today, the women there are still an, if not fewer than, the male cadets.

A compact for growth

AT LARGE

Nona Jimenez-David

In 2004, the United States Congress launched an "innovative and independent" foreign assistance agency to fight global poverty. The agency, known as the Millennium Challenge Corporation, enjoys strong bipartisan support and aims to deliver "smart, US foreign assistance" by focusing on good policies, country ownership, and results.

Some $8.79 billion have so far been granted through "country" compacts with countries around the world, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, but including three countries in Asia: Mongolia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The inclusion of the Philippines is actually an indicator of the country's potential for growth. Countries qualify only if they score high on all of MCC's criteria, with the board examining a country's performance on "20 independent and transparent policy indicators." Matthew Bohn, MCC resident country director and countries scorecards in three major reform areas: governance, investments in health and education, and economic freedom. In 2010, a year in which Benigno Simeon Aquino III came in office, some countries here actually had their compacts prematurely terminated due to failings in these three areas.

Luckily, the "accountable entity" that implements the projects described in the compact with MCC is known as the Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines (MCA-P). Chairing the board of directors is Budget Secretary Butch Abad; the directors are the secretaries of three departments participating with MCA-P—Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima (vice chair), Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, and Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson—and the representatives of civil society organizations.

* * *

THE $434 million granted in the compact between MCC and the Philippines is being spent on projects in three areas: the Bicol region, Philippine Health Development Project involving the rehabilitation of a 222-kilometer road in Eastern and Western Samar, Kalahi-CIDSS projects in Luzon and Visayas which will benefit some five million individuals through community-led development, and the Bicol Water Supply Rehabilitation Project aimed at improving the efficiency of the Bureau of Internal Revenue while addressing issues of corruption.

Marivic Asuncion, MCA-P managing director, stressed that though the projects may seem to mainly benefit their beneficiaries, they have an ripple effect in that "in spreading the $434 million Compact grant, the projects recognize the positive contributions of women and the vulnerable members of society (such as the elderly and the disabled)."

For instance, recounted Tobe, during a visit to the project areas in Sabangga, Samar, they found that the four-cement floor of a community day care center had been finished with tile flooring, which the mothers themselves raised funds for and had installed "because they wanted a more beautiful facility for their children."

* * *

MCA-P's expression of their collective concern regarding climate change and its impact on the environment, including the growing number of disasters that have visited the country, members of The Outdoor Writers of the National Press Club (TOWNPC) are launching an "information campaign" on climate change to deliver "critical, dependable and useful" scientific information to local government units.

The launch of the information campaign has been timed with the international observance of International Women's Day on March 8.

The idea of an information caravan on climate change first arose during a meeting last Feb. 15 hosted by Nina Tinson of the Shores Peninsula and participated in by different women scientists.

Last March 3, a meeting had by TOWNPC and facilitated by scientists, government officials and local government leaders limned up the parameters of the information campaign that will be launched in the Visayas and Mindanao in the coming months.

Members of TOWNPC are also set to launch a "Green Suite" in ongoing until March 17 at the LRI Design Plaza on Mezzanine Garcia Street in Bel-Air, Makati.

Over 30 showrooms with high-end furniture, home accessories and furnishings, fine-art galleries with works of local masters and contemporary artists, and establishments such as restaurants, bars and spas are participating in this annual sale. Patrons may avail themselves of up to 50-percent discounts on selected items and services.

The sale is held in conjunction with the national celebration of Design Week Philippines for The Tender Bar International Trade Expositions and Missions, celebrated every third week of March and October. The objective of the celebration is to promote the Philippines as an Asian design hub as well as a tourism destination for culture and art, of which some of the Asian economic arts to be found at the LRI Design Plaza.

Incompatible as heaven and hell

COMMENTARY

Manuel Gonzales

BY THE aftermath of the temporary restraining order that the Supreme Court issued on the Senate impeachment court's subpoena issued to to quite into the dollar accounts of Chief Justice Renato Corona, "impeachment" and "TRO" became the buzzwords of the season. But while they are mentioned together, they are as incompatible as heaven and hell. The TRO has no place in an impeachment proceeding.

The main objective in impeachment is not the protection of the rights of the respondent but the assertion of the right of the people to demand an accounting from an impeached public official. That is why the Constitution has provided safeguards in these cases so that the process is shielded from unauthorized intervention.

Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution provides that only the people (whether by themselves or through their representatives in Congress) have the power to file an impeachment complaint. Thereafter, the articles of impeachment are sent to the people's representatives in the Senate who are vested by the Constitution with the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment, to the exclusion of all other courts, even the Supreme Court.

It was as unauthorized act of interference on the part of the Supreme Court to have issued the controversial TRO. The tribunal managed to save face only with assistance from the Senate impeachment court, which strategically acted to respect the TRO on the mistaken belief that it is coequal with the Supreme Court.

But when the legislative branch of government acts to initiate the unique process of impeachment, it is no longer coequal with the executive and judicial branches. On the contrary, it is now empowered to charge and accuse, to pass on trial, and to decide the fate of the highest ranking members of the executive or judicial branches, depending on which officials are being impeached. To extend courtesy, therefore, to those who handled or are mere extensions of the impeachment trial would be to make a mockery of the impeachment process.

The people, through their representatives in the constitutional tribunal, have vested in them the sole impeachment court the sole, absolute and exclusive power to try and decide impeachment cases. This plenary power includes the prerogative to make any action, process, subpoena, writ, or order necessary to carry out its objectives without interference from any other court, body entity or tribunal.

Consequently, the last paragraph of Article XI Section 3 of the Constitution provides that Congress may make its own rules on impeachment. It is not obliged to strictly follow the Rules of Court which govern ordinary court proceedings.

In compliance with its constitutional mandate, the Senate drafted and adopted its own rules of procedure on impeachment trials, which are in detail no poorer so, among others, compel the attendance of witnesses, to enforce obedience to its orders, resolutions, writs and judgments; to preserve order; and to punish in a summary way contempt of, and disobedience to, its authority, orders, resolutions, writs, or judgments.

If a person summoned by the Senate impeachment court has any objection to any process or order of the impeachment court, he cannot ask for a TRO from the Supreme Court or any other court, body, tribunal, or government agency.

Under the Senate rules, such a person may make an oral or written motion, like a "motion for reconsideration," for instance, but he must present this only to the presiding officer of the Senate impeachment court.

It is significant that nowhere in the Constitution is there any provision for judicial review or enforcement any matter pertaining to impeachment.

Thus, when Philippine Savings Bank cast in the Supreme Court to ask for a TRO, it defied the Constitution as well as the Senate impeachment rules. But this was precisely did not stop them; it was compelled when the high court issued the TRO without authority, and multiplied damage case when the Senate impeachment court decided to abide by the TRO out of misplaced courtesy to the high court's.

It is final note, in view of recent developments in the impeachment trial where some senator-judges have obviously shown their biases and their dislike for certain parties in the trial, it might be timely to state that senator-judges are required to be neutral, fair, objective and unprejudiced. Because impeachment is a political process, they have no place in what is supposed to be a dignified and impartial proceeding such as an impeachment case.

In a nutshell, the 65 percent are focused on the economic ills that they are experiencing. They are not in the mood to be distracted by issues that are not in their right. The survey report says the government's focus on graft and corruption alone is insufficient for the majority. "This is beginning to affect the public's disposition toward the President," the report says.

The first-ten effect of the social and economic unrest on the outcome of the impeachment trial cannot be discounted. During the past few weeks, the media have been reporting a growing groundswell of public discussions on the possibility of the acquittal of Corona.

Manuel Gonzales is a lawyer.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

From debtor to creditor, PH still using 55% of GDP to pay

LETTERS

ALLOW ME to once in the country's history proclaim: "From debtor to creditor, PH has done so creditor nations." (Because, [US $1.12] was raised for this piece of good news and wide reaction).

Indeed, the Philippines achieved a milestone this year under the able leadership of President Aquino when the country, debt-wise, became a net creditor nation. Our debt from being a debtor to being a creditor nation means that while we still have debts to be fully paid, our present foreign currency reserves of $82 billion have already reached a level more than enough to cover our total foreign debts. We are also able to earmark $500 million of our reserves for facilitation by the International Monetary Fund to loan to hard-pressed European nations.

Still, it should be a sobering thought that our economy uses over 55 percent of our gross domestic product to service the onerous and unjust debt we have dating back to the Marcos dictatorship.

However, with President Aquino's anti-corruption campaign (gains corruption, including removing the low ranges of the Arroyo Democrats), I believe that we are on the right track of lowering the percentage of our GDP which we use for debt servicing.

It is in this light that we must view the determination of P-Noy to remove Chief Justice Renato Corona to shut the judiciary (or his subservient) and make us emerge from the "dark ages" and, as elements in the fight against corruption.

But will our country ever be debt-free? While no nation has ever been debt-free, including the powerful United States of America, we can at least aim for full and complete debt unification of loans, investments or overseas development assistance.

—ROMEO RENTA
rollrobinson@gmail.com

Where is 'Eden Lim Cruz'?

I have been looking for one "Eden Lim Cruz" for more than three years now, in the course of making inquiries at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police on her whereabouts because she was with a group of some 20 female study-policemen who visited our house and received me without notice for my alleged rape of her and dark of her cell phone.

More than three prosecutors assigned her to charge me with three crimes in the municipal and regional trial courts, which ordered my detention without bail.

The exam, however, promptly discovered the crime perpetrated by them and documents that the alleged victim could not be located, are totally unknown in her own home address, and had no record of residency in each locality. Thus she was shown to be a "bogus" victim who was procured by the PNP and the Crime prosecutors in a conspiracy to effect an "unjust deprivation," which is much worse than "kidnap-for-ransom" because the perpetrators are armed with governmental powers. Those who arrested me and the prosecutors demanded money for my release," which I refused.

If ever "Eden Lim Cruz" surfaces—the PNP has her pictures, addresses and other information which they are withholding despite request—let the cited light on the ongoing outlaw which is run by the very people who have been tasked to prevent an end reason than murder prevail.

—GEORGINA SOTTO,
114-E Kiena, Bacoor, Cavite

Contemptuous

The Senate impeachment court is not infallible. This has been proven by its decision to cite a prosecution witness in contempt of court when it was Sen. Minority Defensor-Santiago who was truly contemptuous.

We congratulate Sen. Miguel Zubiri's gallantry in coming to Lady Macbeth's defense. But, pray tell, who is going to save the nation from Lady Macduff's vengeance delivered?

Lauren "Ibalong" Aguirre, you are one idol, for showing that people have their limits of patience and for pointing out the multi-faceted Santiago's shrill tones, terrible screens and mad antics as extremely offensive to human ears even if her logic is often unassailable. And you are double our idol for standing up to the "lady bully" who will surely traumatize the Philippines as a member of the International Criminal Court.

People who mix others for contempt often, in fact, don't want the ones who suggest the act of contempt should be punished in cartoons where this proverb belongs.

—JOSE DIAZ,
jbodiaz@gmail.com

PRIVATE prosecutor Virginia Aguirre II is led out of the impeachment court after explaining why he cursed his own ex-boss, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was leading the prosecution for dropping the articles of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Renato Corona. AP PHOTO

Peace panels taking own sweet time

STOCKTAKE IS happening to the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Tokyo. But the two panels are taking their own sweet time with the people in the conflict areas and the stakeholders entering in darkness. The government is missing the opportunity to give the MILF to come to an agreement, given the political upheaval, latest known as "desk-leaving," in most of the countries where the peace talks are held. Some are calling for an immediate recommencement of talks.

When hands are scarce, it is not beforehand the same MILF elements except to local sources and employ them. But it would only aggravate the situation in Mindanao. We believe that the number of kidnap-for-ransom incidents could only be due to the scarcity of funds needed by members of MILF units. This does not augur well for the region, and the protracted peace negotiations will only bring the conflict areas deeper into the quagmire of uncertainty.

We are for the stability and normalcy in the conflict areas, which are practically all within the domain of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Given the length of time and the money invested by both panels in the negotiations, we are certain that they have covered every issue of concern and it is high time to give peace a chance and for normalcy and reconciliation to ensue. The delay is unconscionable and the negotiators are doing the shabbiest disservice to the people and to the region.

Families and the persons and future generations given injustice.

Like others, we are keen to economic returns starting for the conflict-affected areas. Foreign investors are very keen to hear that. Right now, the framework for transforming peace and order in the region is almost useless. Governments personnel keeping watch over peace investments are given thin stable use of MILF resources as their safeguards. This sounds incredible but that is the fact because the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF forbid weaponry. The MILF had been issuing motherhood statements like it will help the government to run after the suspects. But it has not to back those words with action.

Despite the kickback-and-arrangements of the MILF toward criminal suspects in their territories and ranks, the government has chosen to turn a blind eye to the unsavory practices. But this is now perceived as weakness following the reaction to recent real ambushes of government forces in pursuit of criminals.

It is believed that government forces yield to the encroachments of the MILF because they do not want to disturb the ongoing peace talks. If the government negotiators can suffer the delay because they do the least affected since they are mostly outdoors of Manila, so from Mindanao do not have that kind of endurance. It's now time for them to roll the talk and walk the walk.

—EDILBERTO JESUS,
chay_de_jesus@yahoo.com

A 'calamity' at ICC waiting to strike

I HOPE from something the impeachment proceedings over Dec. One and I am so exhausted and disgusted in the way Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has been and incalculable much invigorate the prosecutors, who are our congressmen and her colleagues in the legislature.

There is no justification in her behavior (even if they make sense). I expected to see patriotism and fairness in our senators—not rude, insolent, confusing senators! It is such a pain to see Santiago—so condescending and so unappreciative—patronizing. Why does she behave so high and mighty—she is supposed to represent the people and not find reprieve in anyone. Our congressmen deserve everyone's respect as much as she would like herself to be respected. There is no problem as to her not winning them such respect.

If Senator Santiago is going to be in the International Criminal Court (ICC), what is terrible doing to the Philippines? Will she be able to win the case before the world. If she would vote her in the video of the impeachment proceedings, I wonder what the ICC members will have to say of her. What a calamity for we Filipinos!

—FERNANDO MARTINEZ,
San Miguel Village, Makati City

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Aleli, Grace: 8 meters of separation across the aisle

By Carla Gomez
Reporter (Inquirer)

BIBICAHIN, Negros Occidental—The sudden and the long-time partner of Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo is out of his senior space" to say the least of Sr. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church here after his wake soon Tuesday without acknowledging each other.

Iggy's long-time partner Grace Dimaa, dressed in black, had been at the church's old mourning hall since the night of the wake and was seated at the front pew on the left side, when Iggy's widow Aleli Arroyo and daughter Aleli walked down the center aisle to the coffin and later sat on the right side in seats reserved for the family of the deceased.

The congressman's daughter Bianca Tambunting and female Grace while Iggy's sister Melissa Arroyo were also chatting with each other.

"Ka Iya as I am concerned she does not exist. In Catholicism, there is only one wife. I do not know why there is another one being talked about. It doesn't matter. I don't really know who she is and I don't care," the congressman's wife, Aleli, said.

Aleli said Grace was not welcomed at the non-liturgical service held at the Sumong Pentecostal Church Hall but she has been invited her son in.

"Since it could stay at the public area. What she was presented at Dona Josep at was the family area because she is not family," said Aleli, who was wearing a "Prayer Iggy" T-shirt.

Aleli also said she would hold on to the good memories of her former with Iggy as for now Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had told her not to litter.

"And that is really how I was able to survive because we just remembered the good memories," she said, which included her coming to Negros with Aleli and Iggy.

Aleli said she would be at the funeral of her husband on Friday and would receive the Ring Aquiel on his outfit as his wife.

Grace, on the other hand, said she did not want to comment on Aleli's statements.

"My point is Iggy's wishes at the moment. I would like his dignity intact for he is really a respectable man. I think he deserves both. I love him unconditionally," she said.

"I will accept everything for Iggy. They can say all they want to me. I will not respond. I am closing my ears. I am praying to God because I love him. I will keep my peace for Iggy's sake," Grace added.

Grace said she was very close to Iggy's daughters Bianca and Dina. "He made a pact that we will one together to keep Iggy's memory alive and Iggy made that clear to his last will and testament," she said.

However, she refused to discuss details.

"His purpose was to keep us all together and I will. I assure, love his children and will take care of them," Grace said.

But Bianca and Aleli, in separate interviews, thanked the people of the 5th district of Negros Occidental for the love they have shown the congressman and spoke of how they were part of his work in the area.

Aleli spoke of projects she undertook in this district while she was with Iggy. Aleli, as the spouse of Iggy in the early part of his term, implemented Pro-poor Iggy, which included supplementary feeding projects to Daraw who are undernourished, rabies education for parents and a vegetable production program.

On the other hand, Grace also spoke of the work she had done in the area and of her plan of putting up a foundation in Iggy's memory to carry on what he had started.

Idea: They give dogs bad name, call them rascals

From page A1

...commend on the annual income must exist first by law daughter, Trinity Pascua, against some members of the country's coalition of football teams.

Speaking to reporters, the former Bohol solon said she had supported her daughter's decision to file the case saying, "They (the players) should behave."

"They should have just respected either (Cojuangco) or they were laughing when she was challenging their credentials," Bilog said. "(Jeff) Jobson, Mahakal (Iggy aka Filipino) (It's a shame on Filipinos)."

Need for discipline

She called on Sen. Alfredo Benipaz, James Younghusband, by daughter into the case. She said, "We didn't do anything except (play) basketball. Those (in leaders) his name mentioned to harass us."

The senior "Alfredo" is a jolly on the Filipino term for stray dogs (Asong Kalye), or dogs without a master or pedigree. The senator caught fire with the nickname for the term of players of mixed Filipino and foreign parentage.

Violating ethical norms

Gordon, who served as coach of the Philippine national football team, or exhibition match, joining the Philippines and Malaysia last week, has filed a formal harassment complaint with the Asian Football Confederation (also AFC) against Kelata player's daughter Trinity and Jonathan May.

The former presidential daughter said she felt insulted when she conducted a prematch inspection inside the Kelata' dugout of Royal Meadow Stadium.

She alleged that "some players ridiculed her with the phrase (Ito) ang pinakilig-asking for the sign of his teammate, which also followed by an ear of laughter."

Another player, Trinity claimed, appeared with a toy ball naked during the inspection, in violation of ethical norms.

FVR agrees

Former President Fidel V. Ramos also said he and his wife agreed with the position their daughter Kelata player of the stallion.

Noting that his daughter once had held various positions in sports, he said: "She now knows what she's talking about."

Although they admire the former President said, "We encourage, but refrain to call in Filipinos."

Pro and con

The Ramos couple spoke to reporters at Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Tuesday prior to leaving for Taiwan, where the former President was invited with Taiwanese president.

Ten party-list representatives disagreed on how to tackle the issue facing the two Kelata players.

Ang Kasangga Rep. Teodoro Haresco took up the cudgels for Bilog and Kelata players, saying, "Let those responsible be."

Haresco said the Kelata should be given a "time-out" from the controversy to allow the players to move on their forthcoming matches, as in the AFC Challenge Cup.

"It's important for the team against the Kelata' Gab semifinal, Manila Roman, in your first game, it is tougher (if) boys against the adult values in your nervousness that (stems from your head)," Haresco said in a text message.

While the Filipino fans for Kelata Filipinos at the boardgame is in the quiet corners of the venue this was concerned, "he added.

Bilog said the incident should not be discussed as a "misunderstanding" and "misinterpretation." Help (us) figure out the Ramos' daughter.

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

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TNT unveils new import

By Mayong B. Cuenca

DEFENDING champion Talk N Text breaks in a new import in rebounding dynamo Dwayne(ll) Harvey in its clash with Air21 event as Barangay Ginebra seeks a fourth straight win in the PBA Commissioner's Cup eliminations at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Harvey, who averaged 14 boards a game in the recent Chinese professional league despite being listed at just 6-foot-6, makes his PBA debut in the 7:45 p.m. contest where he will be reunited with naturalized national team mate Marcus Douthit.

And he is not just a straight one-rebounder but a huge scorer, too, after finishing with an average of 24 points for the Tianjin FC, giving the Texas-born cager bragging rights of being the scorer outside of their high profile backstrange.

The only thing that concerns coach Chot Reyes at this time is cohesion, with Harvey having practiced just three times with the squad after arriving Saturday night from the United States.

"Air21 has a high-quality import who has played well with them," Reyes said. "This will be our first time to play with Dwayne(ll) and we would need to be ready to adjust on the fly to whatever [rules]."

The Talk N Text Tropang Texters, who are fresh off their 103-96 victory over Petron Blaze Boosters last Sunday, will look to improve on their 3-1 record in the conference.

The Gin Kings, meanwhile, will aim to bounce back from a 103-96 loss to Alaska last Sunday when they host the Elasto Painters at the Araneta Coliseum at 5:30 p.m.

Ginebra will be coming off a weather-shortened tune-up game against Petron at the Waves Center in Antipolo last Sunday when Yeng Guiao's squad was declared the winner by default after the Boosters refused to play the fourth quarter due to heavy rains.

And Guiao has given the Ginebra locals all the confidence to do their thing offensively knowing that Verano will be outstanding in the shorter hour to half their load if not.

"Being a player, if you see that your import is doing well, that lets a lot of play off the locals," Guiao said.

Douthit is practically out of the playoff picture with just four games to go and nothing less than a sweep could translate to Air21 to make the playoffs.

At 3-4, Mirabile is practically out of the playoff picture with just four games to go and nothing less than a sweep could translate to Air21 to make the playoffs.

DONNELL HARVEY'S Rebounding demon

Twin pugs book nat'l boxing tilt finals slots

By Ray Lavero

TAGBILARAN CITY—Twins John and Jade Rivero proved overpowering when yesterday to barge into the finals, bowling Several Asiana City's charges in the 2012 PLDT-Abap National Amateur Boxing Championships at the Bohanglas Coliseum gym here.

John Rivero whipped Rondrex Lee, 26-8, of Silliman Oriental in their junior boys lightweight tussle while Jade edged Roman Joel Colendo, 17-10, also of Manila, in the junior boys flyweight division in Cebuano and there leaves into today's championship round.

Flyweight Reypel Lee Able stunned Gerfred's comeback when he trounced Aglayan's Nolasco Dickson, 10-6, in the first of 3-1 semifinal bout to topline the day.

It was Mandaue City's Revita Jake Calunsag, however, who grabbed the limelight with his impressive victory over Silliman's Jaylor Hayo, 15-7, in the boys flyweight division.

The 15-year-old Camiguin counselor Tolentino Memorial High School in Cebu, had his counterpart downcast in this four-day tournament with abbreviated wins in the first and second rounds held in the towns of Corella and Bantayan, respectively.

Calunsag knocked out Bradford Virgil Dequina in the second round and then followed it up with an RSC knockout stopped contest conquest of Manila's Jhone Christopher Alcantara in the second round.

Out to foil Calunsag's gold medal bid is Jovan Magdayao of Team Buddy Andrada, being coached by former Olympian Roman Dela Rosa. Magdayao subdued Bohol's Rod Fa, 10-9.

Mandaue's other only finalist was junior light flyweight Brian Bacaodio, who disposed of Bagong Pilipinas' Dominggo, 7-2, to forge a showdown with Jade Rivero.

Jade Rivero, on the other hand, will collide with Davao del Norte's Quentin Jun Magayes.

LOHE

Long bolsters powerful NLEX squad

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO—Star Rob Long heads up an already potent NLEX cross when the PBA D-League Foundation Cup rolls off on March 13.

Long, who just played his final season with Blue Eagles, joins a virtual all-star amateur lineup led by Collin Abarca, MK Garcia, Dave Mercado and Cliff Wright in the Road Warriors' bid for a third straight championship.

Last month, PBA commissioner Chito Salud gave Long the go-signal to play for the Santo Tomas-based following an appeal in which he cited his decade-long stay in the Philippines even if he's an Australian national.

Only Filipinos and foreigners with Filipino roots are allowed to play in the league. A foreigner, though, gets to play only if he's part of a school-based team.

The Road Warriors get their campaign going against Big Chill at 4 p.m. co-opening day right before the Bad Pauelle Pipers tangle with Blackwater at 2 p.m. at the FEGS Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Most of the squads in the conference's joy room field will parade stretched lineups, according to tournament director Butch Manalo yesterday.

Both Pacific Pipers blend Pido Jarencio in the new mock, replacing Topex Robinson, and added stars were players led by UST's Jeric Fong and Adamson's Jun Dillera.

Cebuana Chuckler topped Arnaud's Baron Sanchez, Adamson's Lester Alcoseral and James Lemuel, while Boracay Rum signed up Filipino-American Jone Enriquez and Glenn Williams.

Paeng highlights 124th title with perfect game

SIX-TIME world champion Paeng Nepomuceno notched another milestone in his unprecedented bowling career last Sunday by winning his 124th Masters title at 49 years old.

Maintaining the form he displayed in 1977 when he recorded his first Masters victory, the 50-year-old Nepomuceno toppled former world titlist and Asian Games gold medalist Bong Coo, 226-223, in the final 224-206), to capture the 1st ABC-Bowlers Open crown at the E-Linear Bowling Center in Greenhills, San Juan.

"It feels good to be able to keep with the bowlers much younger than me," said the lefty Nepomuceno after his well-deserved triumph.

Nepomuceno shot a perfect game 300 in the 12-game Masters elimination to emerge No. 2 seed in the stepladder finals with a 241 average, behind Rivera, who scored 245.

Third-seeded Frederick Ong, singles gold medalist in the last Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta, scored 232 by beating fourth-seed Paulo Valdez (222) and fifth-seed Gerardo Munoz (195) in the first stepladder match.

Then, Nepomuceno earned a shot at Rivera in the championship clash, 226-223, in the one-game stepladder set.

Rivera hit five big games—a couple of 279s, 268, 247 and 246—in the elimination, while Nepomuceno fought back with sterling games of 300, 279, 258, 261, 257, 236 and 234.

So far, Nepomuceno is the only four-time winner of the prestigious World Cup. He is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for his dominating performance during his younger days.

NIÑA Bolce stands a forehand return to Ruman Jesse Young Girls.

ITF 14-U: Local bets fall to foreign rivals

DOMINATED Hellenic Wodage of Sri Lanka stunned No. 7 Rikka Mae Mandalano while three other Filipino bets also bowed out in the first round of the ITF Asia 14-Under Development Championships Division I tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Wodage held off Mandalano's rally in the second serve-complete 6-3, 7-5 victory and join the group of foreign bets in the Sunday tournament put up by the International Tennis Federation and Asian Development Fund.

Also, 10- Tan Hui Chen of Chinese Taipei survived Ingrid Mark Gonzales, 7-5, 6-4, while sixth-seeded Jessie Young Tan of Hong Kong's Jessica Tsun Ser Chen blanked Ms. Dominique Ong, 6-0, 6-0, in the other matches.

David Hawthorne of Kazakhstan thwarted Korean Seo Ji Chul, 7-6 (5), 6-2, while third seed Priska Nugroho of Indonesia impressive subdued Jocelyn Rae Ho of Singapore, 6-2, 6-1.

Other winners were Stephanie Sriwongkum of Thailand, who beat Sio Syndie Yost of Malaysia, 6-2, 6-4; Yuliskie Popova of Uzbekistan, who outlasted Amina Dewanjee of Indonesia, 7-5, 7-6; and Rainah Quintero, who ousted Seok Nayin Nabila Foday of Malaysia, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4.

PSA AWARDEE ICTSI PH manager Marlene Bautista (center) receives the PSA Presidential Achievement Award trophy on behalf of ace golfer Jhoe Pegueran from Manila Bulletin's James Yap (left) and INQUIRER.NET's Cielo R. Pasion during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) dinner last night at the Manila Hotel last Saturday. Pegueran, who dominated the 2011 ICTSI-Philippine Golf Tour and winner of the Asian Tour Order of Merit crown, is in Florida to compete in the World Golf Championship this week.

Grieving Tiu seeks 3rd straight drag race win

JONATHAN Tiu will set his third straight rematch in the Quick 8 class and Barz up to play on the side lead in the second leg of the 2012 Philippine Drag Racing Championships Northern Series at the Clark International Speedway on Saturday.

Tiu will drive Inspiration Series Altezza and become The Cars Clan champion Anthony Go who succumbed to lower stock at 10-year-old.

"The whole drag racing community mourns the sudden demise of Anthony Go," said drag racing director Ed Gotiu.

Defending champion Manila Maverick will seek a share of the leadership as he goes for a second straight triumph in the Mid Pro class following his triumph in Batangas last month.

Aaron Miller will also make a move in a run in the Expert class. Steve Silva, contributor

Spurs step up title defense

DEFENDING champion San Mateo Giants and Cheshire Dynamo handed their respective foes to salvage the sole lead at the start of the second conference of the PSAL Pagbang Gilas Basketball League Wine Calamba Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum Monday night.

The Spurs, who topped the first conference of the late Manila Bulletin-initiated sports-edifice Wine-Calamba, whipped up a seventh-quarter storm to throw back Bayanihan Defenders Yvoks Scribes, 83-80, and nail their third straight win after dropping their lone assignment.

The Dynamo banged an inspiring MVP Talang Manigar and PSL second placegrabber Bale Bales to overpower Philippine Tigers Cubao, 91-80, join the Spurs at the helm with identical 3-1 win-loss records.

For Uy named San Mateo, which is backed by Public Relationing Building Communications, Inc., with Zhoanna.

The event is synchronized by the PSA, presented by the PSC and hosted by San Miguel Corp., ALCO, Powerade and Gatorade.

Young karters earn 'Golden' awards

KARTERS Raymond Cadiz, Gabriel Cabrera and Dylan Arambulo were among the youngest recipients of the prestigious 9th Golden Wheel Awards held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay over the weekend.

The 13-year-old Cadiz raised a thrilled 2011 by bagging the Overall Cadet and Expert championships. A student of Elizabeth Seton School, Cadiz was likewise awarded the Cadet Karter of the Year perpetual trophy.

Cabrera, 12-year-old student of Mount Hope Christian School, took the SG Cadet Novice championship in the SG International Cup, where Cadiz also emerged victorious in the upper class SG Novice.

Arambulo, Arambulo Silverio robbed his Cadet Novice second runner-up overall finish. He is rumored by gearing up for another challenging race year as he is slated to move up to the Cadet Expert class.

PROPHYLL Dylan Arambulo, Gabriel Cabrera and Raymond Cadiz do not skate anymore.

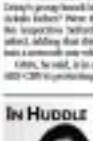
'Azkals should learn to respect sports officials'

A SENIOR colleague advised me not to touch the issue between AFC match commissioner Cristy Ramos and Azkals Lex Ian Alcaraz and forget Quindara.

"We don't know the circumstances. Did Cristy's group/friends/relatives/ they removed the Azkals from the game without the knowledge of the respective referee/coach?" my colleague asked, adding that this matter has escalated into a somewhat one-sided for them.

Ahhh, he said, it is in support of Cristy while AFC's 20th is protecting their referee. I will have a few comment with the second.

IN HUDDLE



Bevin Cayles

"Bevin-it's," he repeated. It was a literally... advice to stick with.

* * *

A couple of days ago, Cayles texted me interesting... Cristy who had filed sexual harassment charges with the AFC against the two Azkals. Cayles was a member of the varsity football team during her college days and later became an official of the Asian Football Confederation, a position she acquired through her own merits and not because of the influence wielded by her once powerful father, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

In our time, Cristy also was the president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

* * *

As Cristy entered on personal television, the Azkals changing quarters was in disorder when her small entourage entered. As such's nonetheless, she said it was her duty to check the team's accreditation one by one.

"The room was noisy, everyone was breathing, there was no discipline. When I started calling the players by their names, Ian Arbey took a glass directly to my right although it was not yet his turn. Then he announced in a loud voice, 'mean let a nag it!' The room erupted with laughter.

"When it was Angel Guirado's turn to be checked, he stood in front of me clad only in his briefs, so I proceeded to inspect his ID. Must be was much taller than me, my eyes were downcast as I scanned the card. Obviously the room was smaller in this and they started laughing again."

* * *

Yesterday I texted Cristy to ask her what she was wearing when she made the inspections. I told her maybe her sweet perfume would have caused the team's testosterone levels to rise and go haywire.

Cristy is a sexy, attractive woman.

"I always wear a suit when I do matches," was her short, cold answer.

Also yesterday, some transporting supporters of Azkals' captain Phil Neville and Ming Ramos at the airport where they were taking a flight to Davao for a business trip.

Asked to comment on Mr. (Stephen) Fan's statement, the former president said Cristy has been a target of Azkals' critics. "And she's doing her job well. The Azkals should learn how to respect sports officials and they should not winning games!"

* * *

For election lawyer Romulo Macalintal, the fight between the "Team Sereno" Roxanne and supporter Gerard Pantoja Cayetano is unquestionably "One for the books."

The value is none strange, if not totally shocking, was the fact that the Garnet and Association Board (GAB) allowed the fight either to wear a clear violation of the person is issued to the promoters, "unbridled and

As the promoter of the fight, AGA Promotions should have discouraged the bout, said Macalintal.

"The GAB Philippines should have just prevented with the unsolicited reward since he already reimbursed those who have purchased tickets.

As for Sereno, he could have shown the highest degree of a true sportsman had he not agreed to fight the boxer who, who to post bond and certainly a mismatch for him, he should have not taken advantage of the clear weaknesses of his opponent.

"What if that boxer sustained serious injuries to this fight? Then Sereno, the GAB and AGA promotions would be held responsible and we would be considered by the entire boxing world for being so insensitive to a clear and present danger to such a very top ranked boxer," he said.

"Under the law, the GAB does not only issue permits for the holding of professional sports but 'supervises its actual conduct' which means personal presence and supervision during the actual contest. Hence, GAB should be the very first to say that fight which can clearly be violative of the permit it issued."

Romero trims PNSA Olympic hopefuls to 4

By Jasmine W. Payo

NATIONAL record holder Daniel Brian Rosario leads four topnotch Filipino shooters vying for a slot in the 2012 London Olympics.

Rosario, who set a new Philippine skeet record in the 2011 World Cup, made the final cut along with the homebodied Tee Medilla (25th) input five pistol), Hapon Alexander Tapacio (Trap) and 15-year-old standout Jayson Valdez (Trap also skeet).

The Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) made the announcement yesterday, a week after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) awarded the country a wild card slot in the quota.

"We submitted their names and it's up to the IOC to choose," PNSA president Mikee Romero said in the ISSA Forum yesterday at Shakey's EK Avenue. "Within the next 30 days we'll know. They have to secure early because any of them can be chosen by the IOC. They have to be ready because this is a once in a lifetime chance."

Seven Filipino shooters who have attained the Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) in their respective events are eligible, but the PNSA trimmed the ramblings to the top four.

"We never know, the first Olympic gold might just come from us," said Rosario, who was joined by secretary-general Col. Danilo Gambos and executive director Lary Sherden in the public forum.

Romero's confidence stems from Rosario's sensational outing in the the men's skeet of the 2011 World Cup Olympian Championship last October in Belgrade, Serbia.

The 29-year-old Rosario set a new Philippine record of 120 in the tournament, tied a point removed from the gold-clinching score of American Vincent Hancock in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Gambos, 75, also a former national team member, said the country's best finish in shooting came in the 1936 Berlin Olympics where Col. Manuel Nieto finished fifth.

Nineteen shooters Arthur Dimaisip (2004) and Eric Ang (2008 Beijing) represented the Philippines in the recent Olympic editions.

"We are grateful to the IOC for giving the Philippines a chance to participate in the sport with the most number of member associations," PH chef de mission Manny Lopez said in a statement.

KOHERO

GOLDEN State Warriors' Monta Ellis puts up a shot over Toronto Raptors' Jose Calderon.

Leading Bulls crush Pacers

Thunder roll past Mavs

CHICAGO—Luol Deng scored 20 points while Derrick Rose and John Lucas each added 13 to power the Bulls over the Indiana Pacers, 92-72, on Monday and stretch the Bulls' NBA-six streak to seven games.

The Bulls improved their 50th best record to 34-6 while snapping Indiana's six-game win streak. The Bucks fell to 23-11, seven games off Chicago's pace in the Central division.

Granger's Jaiden Nash grabbed a game-high 17 rebounds while Rose contributed a game-high nine assists for the Bulls.

Indiana's Paul George scored a game-high 21 points while George Hill added 17 in a losing cause.

The Bulls did not get much separation from its nearest pursuers in the race for the overall lead.

The Oklahoma City Thunder, the Western Conference leaders with the NBA's second best record, improved to 39-8 with a 105-89 home victory over reigning champion Dallas.

Russell Westbrook scored 21 points and Kevin Durant added 22 to lead the Thunder, who rallied 52-45 at halftime before outscoring the Mavericks 23-13 in the third quarter to seize command.

Center Serge Ibaka scored a game-high 27 points for the Mavericks while Jason Terry added 16 points and a game-high seven assists in the losing effort, which fell to 22-27.

Kendrick Perkins pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds for Oklahoma City.

In Toronto, Dwight Howard had 36 points and 13 rebounds while Ryan Anderson added 19 and 13 as the Orlando Magic held off the Raptors, 92-90.

In Washington, Marcus Ellis had 23 points while Klay Thompson added 20 as the Golden State Warriors topped the Wizards, 120-109.

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MONTECILLO GOLF

PH bets open title bids strongly

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Team PH I, composed of Gio Gaerlan and teenager Bayanan Talavera, assembled a one-over par 145 to grab an early one-stroke lead in the first round of the Montecillo Junior Golf Championship at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

Trailing the joint team PH II's Clyde Mondilla and Christofer Acosta, and Thailand's Itash Sirawanont and Chanachok Dejpramsombat.

Princess Espejo garnered the country's charge in the girls' side, firing a four-under 68 as the joined hands with Bianca Pagdanganan (75) as PH II posted a 147 and grabbed a seven-stroke lead over Thailand and PH III in the girls division.

The 16-year-old Gaerlanco scored a one-under par 71 while the 13-year-old Talavera, a high school freshman in Mabini, fired a two-over par 74 at the Palmer course.

Sarit made a 70 while Dejpramsombat carded a 76 for a 146 total and a share of second place with Montcillo and Acosta in the four-day event organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Montcillo actually ended the day's best output of six-under par 66, highlighted by seven birdies, but Acosta only managed an eight-over-par 80. Still, the 60-area good enough to push Montcillo on top of the individual race.

Sarah Jane Medina (72) and Samantha Martinez (81) contributed for a 154, the same output of the Thai duo of Sirapim Nithanotkun (77) and Suvanee Thanapolboonyaras (77), to stay seven off Espejo and Pagdanganan.

Andrea Ceniza (80) and Mia Legaspi (79) were on fourth spot with 159 followed by Tatsuaki Chang Ha-lain (78) and Chang Ye-chi (82) with 160.

(CTS), Premio Oreste, Seijuki Boy, Gerking Peppy, Philippine Airlines, Pioneer Insurance, McDonalds, Dairy Free Philippines, Hidden Springs, Julie's Bake Shop, Dolores Golf Monthly, Friends of JGFF PBA, and the NCAA are sponsors.

DEMURE. Orcollo seems to make his countrymen proud.

Orcollo battles Chang Saturday

By Roy Luces

IT WILL be a showdown of World speedsters when Filipino Dennis Orcollo and Taiwanese Chang Jung-lin collide in the Philippine Billiards Hall of Fame on Saturday at the Degree Airport Casino in Pasay City.

Orcollo, the 2011 World 8-ball champion, is out to prove that he's better than the reigning 9-ball titlist and 10-ball champion when they square off in the 10-ball division of the Philippine Billiards Hall of Fame on Saturday at the Degree Airport Casino in Pasay City.

Orcollo, the 2011 World 8-ball champion, is out to prove that he's better than the reigning 9-ball titlist and just the Philippines an equal footing with Asia in the weekly matches featuring the region's top cue wielders.

"I will not disappoint my countrymen this time. I'm ready," said Orcollo, who won number 2 No. 1 in the world last year but slipped to ninth after his early exit in the 2012 World 8-ball championship in early Chang last month.

Chang beat Filipino Lee Vann Corteza, 9-7, in their PBB International last March 3 to give him a 2-1 lead over the Philippines in the event jointly organized by Mega Sports World and BEER DRY Corporation and aired live over Solar Sports, Sky Channel 79 and Destiny Channel 54. It is also shown in real-time by streaming at www.megasportsworld.com and www.philippinebilliardshalloffame.com.

Sagupaan draws 402 entries

AFTER only three weeks of competition, the 15-1 M Sagupaan National 9-Ball Derby series has already attracted 402 entries.

"We expect to hit the target of 1,000 entries since 53 more eliminations will be held for the tuhods months of March and April," said organizers Eric dela Rosa and Dondon Chiong of Dragon Cockpit.

Competitions will be held today at San Mateo Cockpit in Rizal and San Pedro Coliseum in Laguna.

Metro Manila cockers may join the series at Las Piñas Coliseum (April 12 and 26), Bulacan (April 19), San Roque Marilenas (March 12), Sta. Monica in Novaliches (March 11 and 25) and Pasay Cockpit (March 19 and 26).

Supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the series has a guaranteed prize of P15.1 million, entry fee of P9,900 and minimum bet of P5,000.

Dela Rosa clarified that all entry fees in excess of the guaranteed prize will be given to the winners.

For details, call 8411890, 8410746 and 8366670.

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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

BLESSED Pedro Calungsod was beatified by Pope John Paul II on March 5, 2000, with 43 other martyrs in Rome. A lay catechist, he died while combining missionary work in Guam on April 2, 1672. He was struck by a spear and his skull split by a machete blow. His body was later thrown into the sea. The Vatican announced that Calungsod would be canonized on Oct. 21 this year, making him the country's second Catholic saint. **Estrella Quezada, Inquirer Research**

$200M revival plan for laggard Metro

MMDA, mayors must get act together under WB-backed 'Greenprint 2030'

By Miko Morales

WHEN he started working as World Bank country director for the Philippines last month, Motoo Konishi saw the stilled state of the Pasig River—and remembered how a major waterway in his native Tokyo, similarly silted and polluted in the 1960s, was eventually rescued.

"It is possible," Konishi told his audience that included top Metro Manila officials yesterday at the launch of a $200-million, 20-year bid to put the vibrancy back not just on the Pasig River but on the entire capital of 12 million people.

For now, the task would take much more than cleaning drives, with Metro Manila consistently ranking for years as one of the worst cities in Southeast Asia and the world in terms of living standards, business friendliness, infrastructure, pollution, traffic congestion, etc.

Not to mention the fact that the capital has long splintered into 16 cities and one municipality where "unification" efforts like having a common ticket for mass transport took almost two decades to negotiate.

Konishi spoke at the launch of "Metro Manila Greenprint 2030," an ambitious program that will have the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the 17 local governments unite mapping out ways to transform the unruly chaotic, poorly planned capital into a world-class (forever unlivingstone)

Greenprint will be fueled by a $200-million seed fund and technical assistance from the World Bank and the Australian Government, and the international group Cities Alliance, according to MMDA Chair Francisco Tolentino.

Speaking to reporters after the program, Tolentino was short on specifics as to what exactly needs to be done, apart from saying that all the LGUs must be involved in the planning and that their future ordinances must be in line with the goals of Greenprint.

He cited Seoul and Tokyo as among the Asian "success stories" worth emulating.

Among the concerns raised in yesterday's talks were Metro Manila's age-old problems—traffic and transportation, flood control, water security, the environmental tragedy that is Manila Bay, and informal settlers.

Among the mayors in attendance were Herbert Bautista of Quezon City and Rhoda Garcellano of Mandaluyong. Also present was Gov. Casimiro "Junie" E. O'Hara of Aurora.

Garcellano conceded that Metro Manila has become a "borderless organism" and that its problems were no longer aware of territories between cities.

It has become imperative to "manage Metro Manila as a whole (in order) to improve the quality of life here," the mayor said.

Tolentino spoke of a "physical framework plan" that was made for Metro Manila in 1995, which he said may now need revising due to social, economic and environmental changes in the last 17 years.

The World Bank said the implementation of Greenprint 2030 will be done in two phases.

Phase 1, to be completed in May 2013, will involve "a workshop to raise awareness among key stakeholders in regard to global best practices and approaches in enhance metropolitan competitiveness, livability and sustainability. The vision for the Metro Manila's future will be forged at this stage."

"Phase 2 will involve the preparation of a strategic spatial strategy for approval by June 2013. The second phase will also require further financial support from the government or other development partners." With a report from Alex Olchondra

ONE CITY, TWO WORLDS!
A challenge for any master planner is the yawning gap between Metro Manila's rich and poor, whose dwellings—and aspirations—compete for space in the capital of 12 million.

QC folk warned anew on 'unlivable' fault

By Julie M. Aurelio

MOVE out or stay in your own risk.

This was the warning given by the Quezon City government to property owners living right on top of the West Valley fault.

According to geologists who examined a portion of the fault line which runs through the city, the West Valley fault has moved at least three times over the past centuries.

Their finding bolstered previous warnings made by national and local officials that the 7.2-kilometer long fault line was an unlivable area because it remains active.

"The fault line is unlivable. The safety of our residents, particularly those living near the fault line, is non-negotiable," Mayor Herbert Bautista, Quezon City public order and safety chief, said.

Rufus Rodriguez, from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)—in coordination with the city government—dug two meadow 10 meters wide and five meters deep in a 50-hectare reserve for inward by Barrio Pilipino in Barangay Bagong Silangan.

The area, along with Sitio Sampaguita Pinyahan, had been identified in the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS) as highly prone to earthquakes, San Diego said.

According to him, the geologists found evidence of ground displacement when they examined the exposed trench walls.

"(These) also indicate that at least one to three earthquake events have taken place in the past hundreds of years," he said in a phone interview.

San Diego noted, however, that most new houses and buildings had already been built on parts of the West Valley fault, the city government would send advisories to their owners.

"We will do (but since we complete our comprehensive hazard maps for floods, earthquakes, fires, etc. within the month," he said.

At the same time, he reminded the owners of schools and buildings situated near the fault line to retrofit the structures to make them more stable in case of an earthquake.

The MMEIRS earlier reported that a magnitude 7.2 earthquake might originate from the West Valley fault, prompting the Quezon City government to designate five meters on both sides of the fault line as a buffer zone which should be free of any structure.

The West Valley Fault runs through the cities of Parañaque, Makati, Taguig, Marikina, San Mateo town in Rizal province and Quezon City.

Why MMDA giving up on uniform traffic fine rates

By Mike Navallo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development authority may have succeeded in implementing a unified traffic ticketing system for the Metro's 16 cities and lone municipality but motorists can no longer look forward to a uniform set of rates for traffic fines and penalties.

The possibility of imposing a standard set of rates for traffic fines became a distant reality yesterday after MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino told reporters that it might not be feasible after all.

According to Tolentino, the impact of a traffic violation varies from area to area.

"When a vehicle stalls on Ayala Avenue for a couple of minutes, it has a significant economic impact on Makati as compared to a stalled vehicle in one of the inner streets in other cities," he explained.

Tolentino gave other examples to illustrate his point that each city had a different view of the impact of a traffic violation on its locality as he also cited the varied tax rates being imposed by the different local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila.

He went on to say that the current system seemed to be working so there was no need to come up with a uniform rate for traffic fines.

Tolentino, however, was interested in latecomers using the database of all Metro LGUs on traffic violators to make it easier to verify a driver's record.

After nearly two decades of discussions, the MMDA and Metro mayors finally adopted on March 1 a single ticketing scheme instead of allowing each LGU to issue its own traffic violation tickets.

Under the new system, all local traffic enforcers now recognize citation tickets issued outside their area.

The uniform traffic ticketing system was approved following a dialogue hosted by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and attended by representatives of transport groups such as the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers, Pinglabanang Nagkaisang Manila and Suburbs Drivers Association and Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Trapo at Operator Incorporated.

LIGHTS OUT

Earth Hour, the single greatest environmental event in history, will be held on March 31, through World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines, which participates in and coordinates the world making a commitment to switch off their lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:29 p.m. as a symbolic gesture to save the planet. Earth Hour Philippines has set the global switch-off since 2009. Under the new system, all local traffic enforcers now recognize citation tickets issued outside their area. The uniform traffic ticketing system was approved following a dialogue hosted by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and attended by representatives of transport groups such as the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers, Pinglabanang Nagkaisang Manila and Suburbs Drivers Association and Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Trapo at Operator Incorporated.

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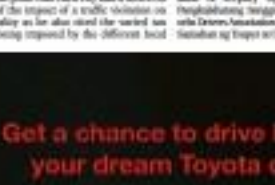

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MetroBriefs

Bank worker shot dead in front of girlfriend

GOING back to get his vehicle to retrieve his packed lunch and to say goodbye to his girlfriend proved to be fatal for a 38-year-old bank employee after he was shot by one of two motorcycle-riding men yesterday. Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section investigators immediately ruled out robbery as the motive for the killing of Edwin Lee, area accounting clerk of the Metro Bank Sta. Cruz branch on Camba Street in Binondo, Manila. Lee passed away after several hours at Mel Jacinto Hospital due to a gunshot wound to the head. Senior Investigator (SPO4 Paul Dennis Javier said that just before the bank opened at 9 a.m. yesterday, Lee arrived at the bank in his black Toyota Vios-taxer with his girlfriend, Charisse Benitez. He chatted in and then stepped out to see his girlfriend off. He said goodbye to his girlfriend who was taking the vehicle with her to work, just his lunch from the 2GO and stood the passenger side door. As soon as he did, gunfire rang out," the case investigator told the bureau's. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

'Salvage' victims found in Rizal province

THE BODIES of a man and a woman who were both shot dead were found by the side of a road at the boundary of Quezon City and Rodriguez town in Rizal province yesterday morning. A security guard of a water company identified the victims as between 5-4 in. (one 4-dash) portion of Daang Riles in Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, police chief Supt. Bon Bon said. "No one saw the dumping," Bon told the bureau in a phone interview. Author Bon have yet to identify the two but they said the couple were probably "salvage" or summary execution victims. The woman was described as between 5'11" and 6'1" in height and in her early 30s. She was in a yellow T-shirt and maong jeans. The man was in his early 30s and described as between 5'6" and 5'7" in height. He was dressed in a green T-shirt and maong pants while his hands had been cuffed from behind. But was quick to say that the handcuffs on the victim did not belong to a policeman. "It looked like it was bought from Divisoria," he said. The bodies were brought to a funeral home for autopsy. **Mitch Calleja**

Robber keeps cool in front of cops, escapes

BUTHOSE that had been counted, a thief still managed to get away from policemen after he broke into the office of a gasoline station in Muntinlupa City in the wee hours of Monday. Police reports showed that the robber made a hole in the roof of the Shell gasoline station office on Km. 21, Alabang Zapote Road in Barangay Cupang at around 2:30 a.m. Once inside, he then rummaged through the drawers and took all the money he could find in the room, reloading the gasoline station's earnings. Members of the Muntinlupa Community Police Center Commandment were then established after a gasoline boy, Raymond Plaga, found the alarm inside the office go off and called the police. Four police officers, including personnel from SPO4 Ricardo Gomez, were able to corner the robber as he was carrying a safety deposit box. However, the thief was unruffled when the police introduced themselves formally. He pocketed a gun at the lawmen who then opened fire on him. In the end, their efforts were in vain as the robber got away, bringing with him a still undetermined amount of money. The Muntinlupa police said they were conducting follow-up operations. **Katherine P. Makiran**

Tomas Teodoro, 93

TOMAS S. Teodoro, husband of the late Geronima Claudal, died of pneumonia on March 7 at the age of 88. He is survived by his children Glenda, Lorengarina, Marlon, Evelyn, Manuel, Javier, Zaldy, Roland and Michelle, and nine-in-law and daughters-in-law. His body lies at Loyola Memorial Chapel-on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. After a 12 p.m. Mass today, Teodoro will be buried at Te.m. at North Cemetery in Manila.

After spat with wife, 'arsonist' faces mob

By Mike Calleja

SOME 20 houses were destroyed Monday night in an hour-long fire that struck a Mandaluyong City neighborhood, where residents later vented their ire on a man suspected of causing the blaze.

Burning a broken pair and bruises all over his body, 40-year-old Pedro Hinapoche remained confined in the hospital yesterday as authorities prepared to charge him with arson.

Insp. Francis Estibeiro, chief of Mandaluyong's arson investigation unit, said the fire started at 10:40 p.m. while Hinapoche and his wife Malou were having a quarrel inside their home on Block 37, Acacia Lane Extension, in Barangay Addition Hills.

Before the fire started, Hinapoche was heard by the neighbors threatening to set his home on fire.

Witness Inez Ramos quickly spread across a row of houses and destroyed some P100,000 worth of property, investigators said.

A resident of the Southside Triangle, suffered cuts and bruises while trying to save his family's belongings, Estibeiro said.

Hinapoche was seen fleeing the area, armed with a knife, during the fire. But an angry mob gave chase and eventually cornered him.

He stabbed a man in the back in the ensuing scuffle, before he was disarmed and severely beaten up.

Authorities have yet to locate the alleged arsonist's wife. "We would like to talk to her about the fire that has apparently gone into hiding," Estibeiro said.

Summer 'flood' hits Las Piñas homes

ABOUT 50 houses were submerged in knee-deep flood while residents of at least three barangays lost their water supply in the wee hours of Monday night due to busted pipe. Authorities said the underground pipeline of Maynilad Water Services started leaking at around 1 a.m. near Metro Gaisano on Real Street, Barangay Elias Aldana. The water quickly rose on a portion of the street and in nearby homes while clogging traffic in the area. The leak cut water supply to at least three barangays and took almost 3 hours to repair. **Nathaniel B. Makiran**

Cop turns in American's lost wallet: 'Karma is no joke'

By Mike Florino

"I USED to tell myself that when I chance upon a wallet with cash, I would keep it," confessed Wiz Pacheco Panaligan. "But when it finally happens, you'd really think twice about it."

Panaligan, a traffic police officer assigned at the Makati Police Station, was one of the three people who found a wallet containing some P20,000 in cash about two weeks ago along J.P. Rizal Street.

He has since been trying to locate the owner, an American tourist named Ryan John Dreiser.

While waiting for the wallet to be claimed, Panaligan received a communication yesterday from the Makati police chief, Supt. Jaime Santos, who said the tourist's bravery was "a entry in the entire police force."

"If you get commended for doing nothing, then that's just a piece of paper," Panaligan told the bureau. "It's different when you get commended for doing giving him something. He then approached the two men.

Panaligan said the wallet seemingly looked "more like a pencil case" and was made from nylon-like material. The contents included Philippine pesos and Hong Kong dollar bills.

It also contained a photocopy of a passport, presumably that of the wallet's owner.

Panaligan then surrendered the wallet to Santos, who later searched for Dreiser on the social networking site Facebook.

Santos found his friends and sent a private message to the person, telling him about the find. He has yet to receive a reply.

Though the case is not yet closed, so to speak, the rules are clear cut for Panaligan. "I never thought of keeping it. I was determined to bring it to the police station."

"Besides, when you think about it, there's hacitta in everything you do. And karma is no joke," he said.

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Glocoo

150 die in arms depot blast in Congo

CONGOLESE try to salvage their belongings from their collapsed houses in Congo. AFP

BRAZZAVILLE—The United States led international pledges of emergency aid to Congo after huge blasts at an arms depot in Brazzaville killed more than 150 people and left 1,000 injured.

President Denis Sassou Nguesso announced a curfew in the capital and cautioned off the area around the devastated eastern district of Mpila, as Congo issued a plea for international help on Monday.

The government said the electrical short-circuit likely caused a fire which triggered a series of blasts so powerful they destroyed scores of houses and even blew out windows in Kinshasa, the capital of the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo situated across the Congo River.

Soldiers combing the wreckage of homes in Mpila recovered more bodies on Monday, an AFP correspondent at the scene said, amid fears the toll will rise further as the densely populated area.

"We have more than 150 people dead, which is a provisional figure.... We have more than 1,000 injured," Interior Minister Raymond Mboulou told AFP.

The minister described the scenes of devastation in the streets surrounding the military barracks as "a tsunami without water."

The United States promised to mobilize emergency aid to the country.

"We are obviously saddened by the loss of life and damage caused by Sunday's explosion at the munitions depot in Brazzaville," state department spokesperson Victoria Nuland said.

"We are in the process of issuing a disaster declaration so that we can provide assistance and emergency help," she said.

"And we're working with the government of the Republic of Congo and the international community to determine what additional assistance might be necessary," she added. AFP

UN sends Kofi Annan to Syria

UNITED NATIONS—Former UN chief Kofi Annan will on Wednesday launch a diplomatic "mission impossible" aiming to convince Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad to silence the guns blasted for thousands of deaths in the past year.

Annan will hold talks with Arab League leaders in Cairo in a last chance to avoid a repeat of his unanimous failure before heads of Damascus on Saturday as joint special envoy for the United Nations and the 22-nation Arab bloc.

Few hold out any chance that he will be able to halt the conflict, which will be 1 year old on March 15.

The International Crisis Group think tank said it is offering "very long odds." The chances for diplomacy in Syria are "slim," added Richard Gowan of New York University's Center on International Cooperation.

Annan himself called it "a tough challenge" last week when he was named.

But the Nobel Peace Prize winner is seen as one of the few international figures with the diplomatic muscle to pull off such a coup.

KOFI ANNAN

"Syria looks dangerous. But the outside world is now desperate. Even if there is only a 5-percent chance, we have to try," said one Western envoy at the UN.

Annan had regular contacts with Assad when he was secretary general though he admitted they have not spoken for some time. His criticism of Assad's action in Libya last year could also give him credibility with Syria and its dwindling band of supporters.

The immediate aim of the first Damascus talks, however, will be to secure a humanitarian pause in the fighting and access to the protest cities where the UN says more than 7,500 people have been killed.

Then, Annan said, he would "work with the Syrians to coming up with a peaceful solution which respects their aspirations and even more importantly the country."

Annan has insisted that he must be the only international mediator dealing with Assad, a message backed by current UN leader Ban Ki-moon who highlighted the "unanimous challenges" and said his predecessor "needs the full and undivided support of the international community."

He will in particular need the backing of Russia and China, which vetoed two UN Security Council resolutions on Syria. Both have their own envoys in the region.

Li Huaxin, China's former ambassador to Syria, will be in Damascus on Wednesday. Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will be in Cairo on Saturday to meet Arab League chief Nabil el-Arabi.

With Arab opinion running against Assad, pressure is growing on them to condemn the violence that Ban called "atrocious" and "grisly." AFP

China warns Iran vs nuclear weapons

BEIJING—Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Tuesday repeated a warning that Beijing is opposed to Iran possessing nuclear weapons, but defended Tehran's right to peaceful nuclear power.

Yang, speaking at a news conference held as part of China's annual parliamentary session, reiterated that China opposed sanctions or sanctions on Iran, against a backdrop of ratcheting international tensions over Tehran's nuclear activities.

Yang's comments came a day after the United Nations' nuclear watchdog's chief said he has "serious concerns" about possible military dimension to Tehran's atomic activities, and after US President Barack Obama left open the possibility of military action if Iran builds a nuclear weapon.

Although Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned Tehran in January against any effort to acquire nuclear weapons, Beijing has generally been reticent about publicly warning Iran or even flatly suggesting that Tehran might want to develop nuclear weapons.

"We are opposed to any country in the Middle East, including Iran, developing and possessing nuclear weapons," Yang said, adding that Iran nonetheless has the right to pursue nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. "We oppose unilateral sanctions," he added.

Yang's comments land just the eight path Beijing is trying to steer between pressure from Washington and its allies, and rival expectations from Iran, which looks to China as a sympathetic power and a big oil customer.

China has repeatedly urged a negotiated solution to the dispute over Tehran's atomic activities, which Western governments say appear aimed at developing the means to make nuclear weapons. Tehran says China's activities are peaceful. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Al-Qaida kill 187 Yemen troops

SANAA—Breaking across the desert behind army lines, al-Qaida militants launched a surprise attack against military bases in south Yemen, killing 150 soldiers and capturing heavy weapons. Iraq later used to kill more troops, officials said on Monday. The military officials said at least 32 of the militants were killed on Sunday's fighting in Abyan province, and scores were wounded on both sides. Medical officials in the area could treat the dead-ball figures. They said the poor services in local hospitals accounted for the death of many soldiers who suffered serious wounds but could have survived had they been given better medical care. The militants' attack appeared to be al-Qaeda's response to a pledge by Yemen's newly inaugurated President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to fight the Yemeni branch of the terror network, believed to be the world's most active. AP

163 from mass grave buried

BENGHAZI—Thousands of Libyans mourned the opening city of Benghazi on Monday for the burial of 163 people whose bodies were found in a mass grave, an AFP journalist said. The funeral comes a day after the bodies were transferred to Benghazi from the desert town of Bir Assad, east of Sirte, where toppled dictator Moammar Gadhafi was captured and killed on Oct. 20. Minutes processions in Benghazi's Martyrs' Square, scene of the uprising that ignited 9 into and to avoid and eventually oust Moammar Gadhafi's regime, where they held prayers in remembrance of the fallen "martyrs." Relatives demanded a quick trial for Gadhafi's son Saif al-Islam, who stood by his father and sought to squash the popular uprising with brute force. He is now in the custody of a militia made up of former rebel fighters. AFP

Anti-Putin protesters detained

MOSCOW—Russian riot police detained more than 100 protesters including opposition leader Alexei Navalny on Monday at rallies challenging the legitimacy of Vladimir Putin's victory in the presidential election. Putin, whose camp claimed 64 percent of the vote on Sunday, portrayed his return to the presidency as a triumph over opponents after years in tycoon's iron power, though international monitors said the vote was clearly skewed in his favor. Riot opposition leaders said they drew 20,000 people into Moscow's Pushkin Square, the scene of disbanded protests during Soviet times, to call for new elections and are planning up of the political system crafted by Putin during his 12-year rule. "They robbed us," Navalny, a 35-year-old anticorruption blogger, told the crowd before his detention. "We are the power," he said to chants of "Russia without Putin" and "Putin is a thief." Reuters

Suu Kyi seeks military vote

NAYPYIDAW—Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi urged members of Burma's (Myanmar) powerful military on Tuesday to support her opposition party in April by-elections as the unexpected for votes on the regime's doorstep.

In a night shown unbelievable until recently, several thousand people turned out each time the National League for Democracy (NLD) party leader delivered a speech in areas on the fringes of the showpiece capital Naypyidaw.

Most people in the crowd appeared to be farm or construction laborers, not government workers or personnel with the Tatmadaw (armed) forces, five reforms the daughter of Burma's independence hero Gen. Aung San had a special message.

"Every member of the military should note what my father said. When he said sea very simple. He said openly that people should not become the slaves of the Tatmadaw but the Tatmadaw must be the foundations of the country," Suu Kyi said.

"It's completely untrue that the NLD is against the Tatmadaw. We welcome them. So I would like to ask them to vote for us," she added.

With only 48 seats available nationwide in the April 1 polls, Aun Kyi's NLD cannot threaten the parliamentary majority of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), whose top ranks are filled with former generals.

But the vote will be closely watched as a test of the new quasi-civilian government's reformist credentials.

It is also the first time that Suu Kyi herself is running for a seat in parliament in the country. AFP

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Inflation eases to 28-month low

BSP seen keeping policy rates at record lows

By Nico T. Ditchondra and Michelle V. Remo

INFLATION fell below 3 percent for the first time in more than two years in February on lower food and utility prices, supporting a central bank move to trim borrowing rates last week and giving it room to keep rates at a record low to bolster demand.

The consumer price index was 2.7 percent in February from a year earlier, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday. This was the slowest annual rate since September 2009 and at the low end of the central bank's forecast of 2.7 to 3.6 percent.

Annual inflation in Metro Manila eased to 2.3 percent in February from 2.3 percent in January. Inflation outside the national capital region similarly decelerated to 2.8 percent in February from 4 percent in January.

For January, the NSO revised the annual inflation rate to 3.8 percent from 4 percent.

The latest inflation data would allow the central bank "to continue a monetary policy stance that will be supportive of growth," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco said at a government economic briefing. "Given the policy horizon, we expect inflation to be below the mid-point of our target range of 3 to 5 percent," Tetangco said earlier in a mobile text message to reporters.

"We will continue to monitor developments, particularly in the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) and their impact on volatilities in international prices, to see if there is any need to adjust our policy stance," he said.

The consumer price index was flat from January on a month-on-month basis, compared with economists' median forecast of 0.5 percent.

The Bangko Sentral cut its main policy rate by a quarter point to a record low of 4 percent last Thursday, underscoring its view that inflation would remain benign and that there was a need to keep prevent

INFLATION B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
March 6, 2012
42.940

STOCK MARKET
March 6, 2012
63.39

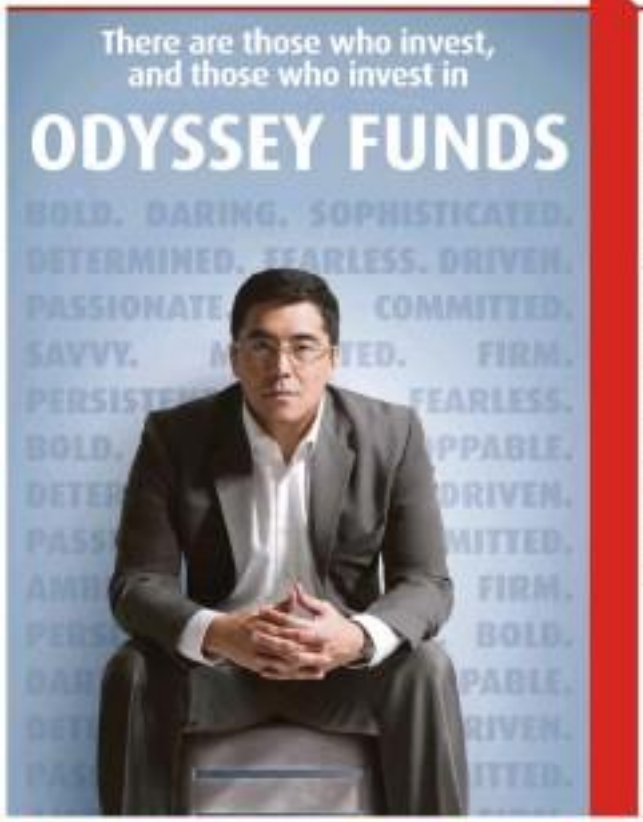
Stocks tumble on lower China growth

MOST LOCAL stocks tumbled yesterday, dragging the main index below 5,300, as investors across the region fretted over China's slowest growth target in 2012.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 63.39 points or 1.25 percent to close at 5,062.28, pulling back

STOCKS B4

There are those who invest, and those who invest in
ODYSSEY FUNDS



Odyssey Funds

Odyssey Funds - the latest addition to BPI's investment funds

Managed by one of the biggest asset management groups in the Philippines, Odyssey Funds aim to outperform market benchmarks.

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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") has acquired shares from Associated International Limited, and indirectly from Associated International Philippines, Inc. and Hospital Vendor Holdings, Inc., a total of 1,108,124,944 common shares of Asian Hospital, Inc. ("AHI"), which represent approximately 51.50% of the total outstanding capital stock of AHI.

The aforementioned acquisition of AHI shares has triggered the mandatory tender offer requirement under Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code and Rule 19 of the implementing rules and regulations thereof. Accordingly, on February 29, 2012, MPIC filed with the SEC a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1 - Tender) and MPIC's offer (the "Tender Offer") to acquire the remaining 548,875,056 common shares of stock (which is the funds of AHI the other shareholders which comprise approximately 48.50% of the total outstanding common shares of AHI. All the shares tendered shall be purchased by MPIC at the price of Php 11.0441 per share, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Tender Offer as summarized below.

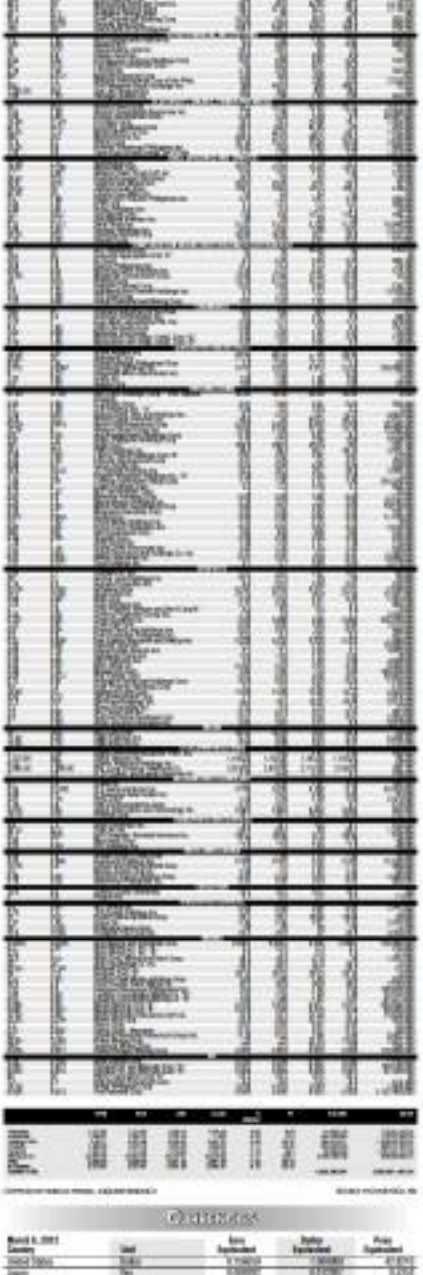
SUMMARY OF THE TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER

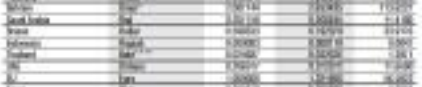
Shares Subject of the Tender Offer	548,875,056 common shares of AHI (the "AHI Shares", or "Tender Offer Shares")
The Offer	MPIC is offering to acquire the Tender Offer Shares at a purchase price of Php 11.0441 per Tender Offer Share
Tender Offer Period	9:00 a.m. of March 5, 2012 until 12:00 p.m. of April 10, 2012 The Tender Offer Shares may be tendered by MPIC's Tender Offer Agent (the "Transaction Agent") for the execution and submission of the required documents, including the duly endorsed stock certificates and Short Form SEC(s), on or April 10, 2012.
Settlement Date	Within ten (10) business days from the last day of the Tender Offer Period, starting April 26, 2012.
Acceptance of Tendered Shares	Only AHI Shares validly tendered by the shareholders (the said shareholder is referred to as a "Tendering Shareholder") and delivered AHI Shares must be free from any claims, liens, encumbrances or restrictions, whether or not valid. Any AHI Shares non-transferable AHI Shares shall be excluded and rejected for by MPIC during the tender offer. Acceptance of tendered shares shall be conditioned on MPIC having obtained all corporate and regulatory approvals, consents and confirmations for the purchase by MPIC of the tendered AHI Shares. Acceptance of the tendered shares shall also be subject to such transfer restrictions as may be contained in AHI's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. AHI shareholders (other AHI Shares are subject to the right of first refusal granted to other shareholders' approved pursuant to AHI shareholders' and AHI's Articles. Section 11 (SRC) by laws must take comply with the requirements of said provisions in order to perfect the sale of the tendered AHI Shares. Any of the tender Offer Period before the Transaction Agent shall accept only AHI Shares thus tendered. The following documents must be duly executed and submitted by the Transaction Agent during the Tender Offer Period: 1. Duly executed Tender Offer Application Form ("Application"); 2. Original stock certificate(s) covering the Tender Offer Shares duly endorsed by the shareholder or his/her authorized representative, which shall be certified by the Philippine Stock Transfer Inc. (the "Transfer Agent") as valid and authentic certificates for each of the said stock certificates, a tendering shareholder must comply with the requirements under Section 11.2 of the Transaction Rules of the Philippines and shall be required to submit (i) one (1) original of a duly notarized affidavit of loss, in the form prescribed in Annex C of the Application, (ii) one (1) of the affidavit of loss, as undertaken by a newspaper of general circulation, (iii) affidavit of publication for the affidavit of loss, and (iv) bond in an amount equivalent to twice the fair value of the AHI Shares as of the date of execution of the affidavit of loss, as certified by the number of shares covered by each lost stock certificate; 3. Duly executed Deed of Sale (Short Form) in which the details of those indicating all the required details, in the form prescribed in Annex A of the Application; 4. Photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards issued by an official agency of the government, showing the applicant's signature and photograph (i.e., driver's license, TIN/SSS card, or passport, etc.); 5. Duly executed capital gains tax return (BIR Form 1707); 6. Irrevocable Proxy in the form prescribed in Annex B of the Application; 7. In case of individual shareholders: (i) duly executed irrevocable Waiver of Attorney in the form prescribed in Annex C of the Application, and (ii) duly accomplished signature and corroborating/specimen signature of the applicant and authorizing an officer of the bank where the Applicant maintains an account; 8. In case of corporate shareholders, (i) an original notarized certification from the corporate shareholder's duly elected and incumbent corporate secretary attesting to the approval by the board of directors and shareholders (if necessary) to tender the AHI Shares and to sign, execute and deliver all documents and agreements, and to perform such acts as may be necessary for the tender of the AHI Shares to MPIC in the form prescribed in Annex D of the Application, (ii) copy of SEC Registration and Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or equivalent constitutive documents certified as true copy of the original by the corporate secretary or equivalent person having official custody of the company records, and (iii) duly accomplished signature and corroborating/specimen signature of the applicant's designated authorized signatory(ies) and authorizing an officer of the bank where the applicant maintains an account; 9. In case of partnerships, (i) an original notarized certification from the partnership's duly elected and incumbent partnership secretary attesting to the approval by the partnership to tender the AHI Shares and to sign, execute and deliver all documents and agreements, and to perform such acts as may be necessary for the tender of the AHI Shares to MPIC in the form prescribed in Annex E of the Application, (ii) copy of SEC Registration, latest Articles of Partnership and/or equivalent constitutive documents certified as true copy of the original by the partnership secretary or equivalent person having official custody of the partnership records, and (iii) duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the applicant's designated authorized signatory(ies) and certified by an officer of the bank where the applicant maintains an account; 10. Copies of the deed of acquisition (or of the AHI Shares tendered by the tendering shareholder (different for purposes of obtaining a Certificate Authorizing Registration (which will be used by the tendering shareholder in applying for a Certificate Authorizing Registration with the Bureau of Internal Revenue), including among others, the Official Receipt/acknowledgement slip/deed of sale for the purchase of the tendered AHI Shares by the tendering shareholder. In case of individual shareholders who will tender their shares through a representative, an original notarized irrevocable special power of attorney authorizing the shareholder's attorney-in-fact to tender, vote on the transactions and to sign, execute and deliver the documents and agreements, and to perform such acts as may be necessary to carry all the aforementioned documents. Documents executed abroad must be consularized. In case of married shareholders who are Philippine citizens, the special power of attorney must likewise be signed by the spouse of such shareholder to indicate his/her consent to the appointment of as attorney-in-fact in respect of disposing of the Tender Offer Shares. The terms of the Application (including the representations and warranties and all terms integral parts of the Tender Offer and/or to save terms integral parts of the Application.
Settlement	MPIC shall pay holders of Tender Offer Shares which are validly tendered under the following terms: 1. Initial payment of 80% of the purchase price ("Initial Payment"), payable on Settlement Date. 2. The balance equivalent to 20% of the purchase price ("Balance Amount"), shall be paid upon delivery of the original Certificate Authorizing Registration from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (Revenue District Office) of the duly executed Deed of Sale evidencing the transfer of the AHI Shares from the tendering shareholder to MPIC. All payments shall be made through check payable in the name of the shareholder of record who made a valid tender of AHI Shares. Where conflicting payment instructions are received, the check representing the Initial Payment shall be issued in the name of the person identified in (a) above paragraph. Duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization from the tendering shareholder. MPIC shall issue the check payment(s) representing the Initial Payment for validly tendered AHI Shares. The check payment(s) representing the Initial Payment shall be made available for pick up within five (5) business days from MPIC's receipt of the Certificate Authorizing Registration covering all of the AHI Shares tendered by the tendering shareholder (the said date,
Withdrawal	Any AHI Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the tendering shareholder or assignee during the Tender Offer Period upon submission of an original and duly executed written letter addressed to the Transfer Agent. Only fully paid, non-encumbered AHI Shares shall be accepted and/or for by MPIC during the tender offer.
Taxes and Expenses	The tendering shareholder shall shoulder the capital gains tax and/or MPIC shall pay for the relevant documentary stamp tax for the sale of the AHI Shares to MPIC. The tendering shareholder shall shoulder all of his own costs and expenses for the sale of the AHI Shares to MPIC under the tender offer.
Transaction Agent	Private Shares Tax Rate & Banks Law Offices shall act as Transaction Agent for the Tender Offer. If you want to get an application or if you have any inquiries regarding the Tender Offer please contact the Transaction Agent: Private Shares Tax Rate & Banks 9F Rizal Library Center, 6-11 de la Costa Street Salcedo Village, Makati City Telephone No.: (02) 8888-8888 Contact Persons: Atty. Antonio Sanz Jr. Sr. E-mail: asanz@privateshares.com.ph Atty. Monique M. Rizal E-mail: mrizal@privateshares.com.ph

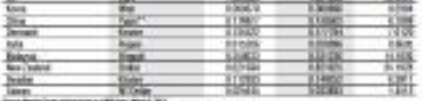
With Instead, Inc. may withdraw their tenders available to MPIC are sufficient to satisfy the full acceptance of the Tender Offer.

Any tendering shareholder who is relieved to meet the full terms and conditions of the Tender Offer and SEC Form 19-1 inquiries and requests for assistance and copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be directed to the Transaction Agent, whose address and telephone numbers are indicated above.

(as of March 06, 2012)







PSE time warp

INTO MUCH fanfare, it was announced that no less than President Aquino would ring the opening bell at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City yesterday to celebrate the PSE index's historic climb past the 5,000 mark.

Thus, everyone was excited when the event at the Ayala Tower One trading floor, including several of the country's captains of industry by the bell-ringing time of 9:30 a.m., approached, everyone was there—businessmen, brainy officials, brainwashers—except the President and his party. Instead, PBB guests for the ceremonial bell ringing, including past Presidents, started arriving at 9 a.m. for some cursory speeches and photo opportunities.

As the clock ticked toward the market opening, many of the PBB hires exchanged nervous glances, some tried to figure out how to manage things in case the President was late.

Minutes later, President Aquino walked into the trading floor to the strains of the traditional Mabuhay March, and the emcee promptly announced the usual countdown toward the opening bell, which was then sung rigorously.

Well, and good. Except for that one missed detail: trades had actually started. Bathing on the PSE's electronic board and across television tickers tape—on time at 9:30 a.m.—almost five minutes before before the President rang the bell. Peninsula (as of that fringe era) saying: "The President is never late. The others are early."

So it's not just the index crossing above 5,000 that was a first. Ringing the bell after market opening also was. And the clock number? It was the first time in the history of the PSE that a President rang

Neda creates team to look into Mindanao power

Special committee tasked to find ways to avert power crisis

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic Development Authority (Neda) is one of the members of the Mindanao Power Crisis Committee that will be tasked to address the looming power supply situation in the island.

In a statement, Economic Affairs Undersecretary and Neda Officer-in-Charge Cayetano "Ed" Paderanga Jr. said that the Neda will be the committee's technical secretariat.

Paderanga said, adding that the Neda will provide the committee with "technical support."

Earlier, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras announced the creation of the committee that will be tasked to look into the power situation in the island.

Almendras said that the committee will be composed of representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), Neda, Mindanao Development Authority, Mindanao Coordinating Council and the National Power Corporation.

The committee will be tasked to look into the power situation in the island.

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People, Events & Products

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Jong Rivera

Sun Cellular first to introduce anti-bill shock system

BEING on the heels of a remarkable increase in its wireless broadband subscriber base in 2011, Sun Cellular is the first to use to the market a new system that will save its postpaid subscribers from running into billing shocks from unanticipated excessive usage or even excessive calls to landlines and other networks.

Dubbed as the Anti-Bill Shock Plan, this new and innovative billing plan can be availed by postpaid wireless, Blackberry, mobile internet, mobile landline, and wireless broadband subscribers through add-on products to avoid incurring excessive subscription fees brought about by inconvenient account usage, over use of broadband wireless subscription or unwanted internet mobile connectivity charges. For example, Sun Cellular's Broadband Wireless Anti-Bill Shock Plan, first introduced in September 2011, affords its customers worry-free internet surfing to their heart's content. Sun's broadband subscribers grow by more than 70 percent year-over-year. From 250,000 subscribers in 2011, it rose to over 432,000 by end of 2011.

"We take pride in being the first telecommunications company to introduce such a system that protects our consumers' interests," says Ricky Pena, senior vice president for Postpaid Marketing and Broadband Business of Sun Cellular. In fact other telcos are following suit in using this latest innovation. Sun Cellular was also the first to introduce call and sms unlimited plans that made it the first carrier to reach 1 million postpaid subscribers in 2010.

According to Pena the Anti-Bill shock system is a solution developed by Sun Cellular to help subscribers stay within their budgets. "Sun Cellular has always focused on offering our customers the best value for their money and our Anti-Bill Shock plans are no exception. At the same time we hand the call of the National Telecommunications Commission to ensure that the subscribers be billed only for the services they really intended to use," Pena adds.

Pena explains that the Anti-bill shock billing system works after the subscriber has consumed all internet/web, SMS, mobile internet, and wireless broadband credit allocations provided for in his subscription plan. Once the subscriber consumes the allocations of his plan, he is then charged the regular usage rates. The Anti-Bill Shock system puts on a cap on the billing charges but the consumer can continue using the service. Once their threshold is reached, the subscriber will only be billed the maximum amount of the Anti-Bill Shock Add-on Plan, regardless of the actual usage of the subscriber for that particular billing period.

He added that subscribing to this add on service is also easy as they just need to call in the Sun Cellular Customer Service hotline 200 hello line from any Sun Cellular mobile phone to subscribe.

7 ANVIL CITATIONS FOR MERALCO

MERALCO officers and staff showing off the seven citations the company was given during the 47th Anvil Awards held recently at the PSSC Shangri-La Hotel. Meralco won an Award of Excellence for its Twitter initiative that enables the company to engage its customers via social media. The Anvil Award is recognizes outstanding public relations work of companies, organizations and institutions. Given out annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), the Anvil Awards are considered the highest honors for PR practice in the country. Photo shows Meralco officers and staff posing with their Anvil Awards here.

Claudio named world's most outstanding Jaycee president

FILIPINO entrepreneur Roberto "Toby" Claudio, president of Toby's Sports and founder of running specialty store Runrio, recently received the distinction of being the Most Outstanding Junior Chamber International (JCI) Chapter President of the World in the recent JCI World Congress 2011 in Brussels, Belgium.

In winning the award, Claudio bested more than 5000 other presidents of JCI chapters from cities all around the world. The award recognizes Claudio's outstanding leadership of JCI Manila, the first JCI chapter in Asia and oldest leadership development organization in the Philippines, in fulfilling the mission of the JCI during his term in 2010. The JCI, founded in 1944, is a worldwide association of young active citizens who lead projects in the areas of Business, Community, Individual and International development in order to create positive change. The criteria for the award rests on several factors such as general management, leadership skills, as well as his chapter's accomplishments of numerous community development projects.

Claudio's big leadership JCI Manila organized several community and sports development programs, among them the Dare to C.A.R.E. for Smokey Mountain (Conservation Awareness and Rehabilitation Effort) which included reconstruction of a basketball and soccer field...The Field of Dreams—where the Smokey Mountain formerly stood as well as several other community projects with a strong environment theme.

In an interpreneur, he spearheaded the endorsement and growth of the country's largest sporting goods chain that bears his name, resulting in the creation of Toby's Arena, an interactive sports superstore that features activities and games that customers can try out and enjoy while inside the premises, like the Toby's Basketball Shootout.

CLAUDIO

Globe Telecom annual report bags Anvil Award of Excellence

LEADING telecommunications company Globe Telecom has won the Anvil Award of Excellence for the exceptional rendition of its 2010 Annual Report as well as a Merit Award for publicity efforts on the Globe Carribora Challenge environmental advocacy.

The 47th annual Anvil Awards of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, "honors organizations that have successfully addressed a contemporary public relations issue with exemplary professional skill, creativity, and resourcefulness."

The Globe Telecom 2010 Annual Report was the first integrated financial and sustainability report published by Globe that is compliant with the guidelines of the internationally recognized Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G3 standard application level B level.

Globe, through 42 Interactive Digital, Inc. and Studio 5 Design, created a design solution to communicate the company's new strategy - the micro human touch- under the differentiators, which made everything personalized.

For the contest, it presented all customer-centric projects that Globe conducted in 2010. There was a dedicated section for the domestic campaign "Enjoy Free Globe, Voice Privy" which talked about the changes in the company's products and services for consumers and businesses; a feature on Customer Experience Management focused on the birth of the revolutionary Globe retail stores; a portion on Sustainability, highlighting various corporate social responsibility efforts; a section on the importance of good governance and creating increased value for all stakeholders; and a People section that showcases the benefits and developments programs for Globe employees.

Meanwhile, the Globe Carribean Challenge, despite limited budget and lack of advertising, generated a whopping P54.3 million worth of publicity as a result of the overwhelming interest and support from broadcast stations and print media.

Such publicity also translated to a significant increase in the number of Twitter participants from 79 billion in 2010 to 157 in 2011. Donations also reached P800,000, with Globe providing a counterpart funding for a total of P600,000, double the amount raised in 2010.

THE GLOBE Telecom team led by Globe Head for Corporate Communications Yoly C. Crisanto (second from left) with their Anvil trophies. With her are, from left, Charmi Lagarejos, head for external affairs; Eric D. Lacsina, head for corporate brand management and Kristel M. Ong, senior specialist.

MALAYAN BANK'S GMA7 SERVICE UNIT TURNS 11

MALAYAN Bank celebrated the 11th anniversary of its service unit located in the GMA Compound, Quezon City. The gathering was attended by key officers at GMA 7 and Malayan Bank. During the event, Malayan Bank president George Ramos expressed gratitude to all GMA Network employees who have been loyal clients of Malayan Bank throughout the years. From left, Michiel Mathisz (AVP, Branch Banking, Malayan Bank); Jiggs Manzanal (reporter, GMA Network), Irma Dayao (SP Marketing, Malayan Bank); Cynthia dela Cruz (AVP-treasury, GMA Network), Mario Mario (branch manager, Malayan Bank); Mary Sierra (AVP-Finance, GMA Network); George Ramos (president, Malayan Bank and PMA's Medal Spit (SVP-consultancy, Malayan Bank).

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TAN CONGRATULATES PMB LIFE ON 2011 PERFORMANCE

AT A luncheon hosted by the Ortanez system for PMB Life management, Dr. Tan handed this token left congressional his appreciation of the impressive performance of PMB Life Insurance, Inc. in 2011. He reaffirmed his support to the company's long-term goals being the only life insurance arm of The Lucio Tan group of companies. In attendance were Alfred Ramb (chair, Domingo Chua, Allied Bank president Anthony Chua, and PMB EVP and chief financial officer Carmencita Ong (second from left, and seated from left, respectively). PMB Life is headed by Esther Tan, president and vice chairperson (seated to the right of Dr. Tan).

PhilPlans recently awarded the top three winners of PhilPlans' Ahong Pinoy Photo Contest at the new PhilPlans Corporate Headquarters in the CBP IA-CENTRUM Building. Erick Avelino, Makati City PhilPlans assistant vice president for marketing Giuseppe S. Morfe awarded the major prizes to the lucky winners. 1st prize winner Mr. Eduardo Esplana (2nd place winner Mr. Ed Dimalla, 3rd prize winner Ms. Eric Bautista (on behalf of Mr. Gerard Bautista). The prizes include a 55-inch Sony LCD TV, Nintendo Wii, and Canon Powershot camera, respectively.

We are very happy to award the winners for the Ahong Pinoy Photo Contest. This contest aimed to emphasize the importance of fulfilling one's commitment to others and we believe that are Filipinos have the strength of character to pay true to our word and economic others. This is the same commitment that we have for our planholders through the years. In fact we have paid over Php 2.3 Billion in pension, education, and memorial plan benefits for the year 2011," said Morfe.

The Ang Ahong Pinoy Photo Contest highlighted photos that show commitment to family, friends, work, values, and relationships. First place winner Mr. Chris Esplana captioned his photo "Ahong" as he chose to demonstrate a simple moment with his simple family. Second place winner Mr. Dimalla's photo showed his daughter Ahong featuring Gohan, his cute baby boy. The photo was aptly captioned with, "Hope can you not give something to a baby you brought into the world beaming with hope and dreams? My baby, I pledge to you my life to your brightest smile."

PhilPlans with a license number PH-0012-AFI, issued by the Insurance Commission for the year 2012, has Php 788 Million in Paid-Up Capital, seven times more than the minimum legal requirement, and a huge, fast growing Net Fund of Php 26.7 Billion (audited as of December 31, 2011), the largest in the pre-need industry. PhilPlans has more than enough in cash funds or cash equivalents of assuring to no more than 300,000 planholders in many years to come.

To know the complete list of the ten winners of PhilPlans Ahong Pinoy Photo Contest, visit the website at www.philplans.com.ph/ahongpinoycontest.aspx.

Erick Bautista (1st Place Winner) Eduardo Esplana (2nd Place Winner, Ed Eduardo (2nd Place Winner)

Aerial view of SixSenses Resort's six-development plan

A vibrant landscape is on the rise with SixSenses Resort

The Bay Area is set to be the center of celebrated international events. Located along Macapagal Boulevard near Mall of Asia, a ten-minute drive from NAIA and public transportation hubs will rise the Metropolitan Park, where SixSenses Resort is located.

Each unit is elegantly designed and tailored to suit your needs. Here your life unfolds in its raw drama, where every ending is a happy one. Unit layouts available are 2-BR with 92.56 sqm. 2-BR suite with 80.01 sqm. and 1-BR suite with 109 sqm.

As a resident of SixSenses Resort, you will automatically become a member of one of the city's most exclusive resort clubs, the Club Le Pre. Here the spectacular sunset of Manila Bay is not the beginning. Live a life full of enchantment through the sports centers, shops, restaurants and various leisure facilities this club has to offer. Access to GT Mansion, free parking, and other exclusive privileges are available within your reach.

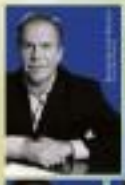
With nearby entertainment sites such as SM MOA City, Resorts World and Casino, Hyatt Manila and Casino, Sofitel Hotel, and upcoming Radisson Blue Hotel, you'll get the best of urban living. At Club Le Pre, your days find perfect harmony.

For 40 years, Federal Land has been making quality homes for different Filipinos – from professionals to established entrepreneurs, from start-up families to large ones. As a Metrobank Group partner, it has created a reputation of trust and dependability. Its track record of quality, reliability and integrity is your assurance to a safe and sound investment.

To know more about SixSenses Resort, you may visit its showroom at Le Pre Blue Park MITEL EDSA cor. Macapagal Boulevard, MIT Park, Bay Area CBD. You may also call (02) 551-0888 or visit www.federalland.com.ph.

A Collaboration of Six Visionaries

Renowned architectural firms come together to create a unique and exciting city that brings everyday living to the level of art.



Shopping. Entertainment. Culture. Business.
A new Hub is on the Rise.
Be a Part of it.

Artful Living by

This is their Bespoke Masterpiece

Sculpted staircases, abstract designs, a museum, and exceptional negotiable facilities are just a few ways that make living at the SixSenses Resort truly an art form.

Artful Living

The Bay Area is their Canvas

Along Macapagal Boulevard near Mall of Asia, hotels, condominiums will rise in a new city, where shopping is exquisite, dining is sublime, and living is inspired.

SIXSENSES RESORT

Enjoy the exclusivity of resort living right by Asia's biggest mall.

Ownership starts at only P15,000 a month.

Call: (02) 551-0888

www.federalland.com.ph

FEDERAL LAND

Artist's illustration of Metropolitan Park's Water Plaza

Artist's illustration of the Club Le Pre lobby

Grand staircase view of Club Le Pre lobby

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IMF forecasts modest growth for PH

Prods gov't to boost program to curb poverty

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund said the Philippine economy should grow modestly this year on domestic demand despite the risks to the broader global economy from Europe's sovereign debt crisis, but raised concerns on the country's inability to translate economic growth into poverty reduction.

The multilateral agency said the main challenge for the Philippines was to make the benefits of a growing economy hit across all income groups and not just concentrated on the middle and high-income earners.

In its annual review of the Philippine economy, the IMF forecast growth would rise to 4.2 percent this year, up from 3.7 percent in 2011. Growth over the next two years could success to exceed 5 percent, while inflation was likely to remain within the 3 to 5 percent official target range, it said.

But the IMF said measures must be implemented to make the benefits of economic growth trickle down to the poor.

The multilateral institution noted that although the Philippines managed to grow over the past decades, poverty reduction has been limited.

In fact, in the last decade, poverty has slightly increased. From 19.4 percent in 2003, poverty incidence in the country rose to 20.4 percent in 2006, and to 26.5 percent in 2009.

"The low elasticity [low impact of growth on poverty reduction] may owe in part to high and rising inequality, which reflects unequal distribution of growth and regional development, rapid population growth, declines in the relative price of labor provided by the poor and limited access by the poor to social and financial services," the IMF said in the report.

The IMF said the Philippine government must improve tax collection so that it would have more resources for social services and infrastructure. It said spending more on social services, such as health and education, was also a key way to spread the benefits of a growing economy.

The government has to invest more on improving human capital so that individuals belonging to poor households would have the opportunity to secure employment opportunities and thus get out of poverty, the IMF said.

"Emphasis [should be] on strengthening human capital, job training and job search assistance, which will help employment," the IMF said.

It also cited the need to increase social safety nets and to improve access to financing by the poor. Social safety nets include the conditional cash transfers and subsidies—given by the government to the poorest households.

Although a growth rate of 5 percent for the medium term was respectable, the IMF said the country has to grow at a much faster pace to make economic growth translate to poverty reduction.

With a report from Reuters

PNB-Allied integration seen in 18 mos

Shareholders OKd revised merger terms

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE National Bank and Allied Bank expect to complete their full integration within the next 18 months, creating the country's fourth-largest private bank and generating more than P1 billion in yearly cost savings for the banking unit of Tycoon Lucio Tan.

Shareholders of both PNB and Allied Bank yesterday approved the revised terms of the merger that is aimed to share ratio rather than, exchange ratio, which PNB will be the surviving entity.

In a joint PSE-filed Bank briefing, PNB Chairman Florencio Tarriela said that by PNB, 2013, the bank group is on track to grow 20 percent year-on-year.

"It should be a much better this year (2012)," Tarriela said, even while the bank had to work hard on its integration with Allied Bank.

"It's like building a house. There are some things you need to work on," she said.

The two banks assured their respective stockholders that the synergies arising from the broadened network, diversified deposit base and improved scale would benefit stockholders.

After obtaining approval for the revised merger terms, PNB president Carlos Bulseco told shareholders that PNB-Allied Bank would now work on getting the approval from the regulators—the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. The effectivity of the merger would be the first day of the month following the approval by the SEC, he said.

The combined entity will have a distribution network of 646 branches nationwide and total assets of P511 billion, the fifth largest among local banks (including Land Bank) and the fourth among privately owned banks. It will also have the largest international footprint across the Asia Pacific Region, Europe, the Middle East and North America. PNB also aims to regain leadership in the consumer finance, Bulseco said.

Allied Bank president Anthony Chua, who heads the integration of the two banks, said full integration would likely happen in 18 months.

PNB senior executive vice president Cristina Hsung said the group was expecting to save some 8-10 percent of the combined expenses of the bank, translating to more than P1 billion per year, once full integration is achieved.

In a report to shareholders PNB said synergies will be generated from "branch re-alignment, re-location of units, consolidation of overlapping systems and corporate indirect overheads, realignment of front offices and optimization of back-office processing and support functions."

The target is to reduce the cost-to-income ratio to at least 50 percent from the 61 percent ratio as of January, Chua said.

Chua said the combined entity would likely end with a manpower of 7,000 to 8,000, at present. PNB has around 5,200 employees while Allied Bank has 3,000.

Part of the manpower rationalization will be covered by natural attrition, Chua said, as a result of a bank limited hiring program, they have already considered the bulk-coming mergers.

Bulseco also said the merger would be done in a way that would have "minimal impact on employees."

In terms of business mix, the union will lead up the group's lending portfolio in the areas of corporate customers (PNB) and China and, in general, about 40 percent of PNB's lending portfolio is devoted to top-tier corporations, 20 percent to the government sector and the remainder to consumers and SMEs.

All the issued and outstanding common shares of Allied Bank will be converted to common shares of PNB at a ratio of 1.30 PNB common shares for each issued Allied Bank common share. All the issued and outstanding preferred stock of Allied Bank will also be converted to PNB common shares at a ratio of 22.703 PNB common shares for each issued Allied Bank preferred share.

To be able to do this, PNB shareholders approved the reclassification of its 105.17 million authorized preferred shares into common shares thereby increasing its authorized common stock to 1.25 billion. Thereupon, the bank will issue 423.96 million new PNB common shares out of its authorized and unissued capital stock to be valued at P70 per share in exchange for the outstanding Allied Bank common shares and preferred shares.

PSG acted as financial advisor to the majority shareholders of PNB and Allied Bank for this merger.

PLDT profit down 21%

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE PLDT of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) fell in 2011 due mainly to a one-time charge linked to the decommissioning of network equipment that were replaced in line with the company's modernization program.

The country's top telecom company on Tuesday said earnings were expected to continue falling in 2012 as the company enters a "transition" period as it shifts from from cell and text services to broadband Internet business.

"Core net income for 2012 will be lower due mainly to pressures emanating from the revenue mix of the group shifting away from voice to data, Margins on broadband are lower than our old business," PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said.

"Competition will also continue to be tight. We are projecting higher subscriber churn [switching] to expand to compete. Hence," he said.

The company reported a 21-percent drop in profit for 2011 to P51.7 billion. This came following the impairment of P6.3 billion worth of network equipment that were replaced in ongoing network upgrades.

Core profit, which stripped out accounting losses, fell P39 billion, 7 percent lower year-on-year. The drop in revenue dipped by 1 percent to P324 billion, despite the inclusion of P3.6 billion in revenue from Digital Telecommunications Philippines, which PLDT acquired in October 2011.

This year, core profit is expected to fall further to about P37 billion as the company grows its broadband business.

Pangilinan said broadband revenues were more contributing more to the company's top line, shrinking profit margins.

As of the end of last year, broadband revenues made up of both wireless and fixed services, accounted for 12-13 percent of total revenues.

"It's difficult to speculate on how much broadband will overtake voice but we know that it will be a major source of business for the group," Pangilinan said.

PLDT earnings are expected to reach the levels seen in 2010—the company's most profitable year so far—by 2014, after its upgrading program is completed.

2 groups keen on putting up refineries in PH

TWO FOREIGN investor groups are looking to put up oil refineries, depots and other related infrastructure in the country, which may reduce their dependence on imports from other petroleum products to neighboring countries in the long term.

At the sidelines of the Philippine economic briefing ceremony, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said one of the investor groups had started negotiations with state-run Philippine National Oil Co. for the lease of the area, whose is planning to put up the refinery.

One of the refineries may be put up in Luzon. Proponents are still scanning for the site of the refinery.

Should these two refinery projects push through, they are expected to cater not only to the Philippine economy, but also to the Asean Market, Almendras said.

"My impression was to have a strategic oil reserve for the Philippines and to have more crude oil on storage or onshore so in case of emergencies we can ensure our fuel supply because the government cannot put up those strategic oil reserves, but we would like for people who are interested in these projects and I insisted them to go to our country," he said.

According to Almendras, he was marketing the Philippines as a strategic investment location where investors could put up refinery hubs that could serve the Asean region. The two investor groups were among those that have responded to the invitation of Almendras.

The energy chief however, declined to identify the companies involved as they have signed a non-disclosure agreement with the parties. Amy R. Remo

MVP agrees with Roxas

Bulk sugar weighing on the so-called "commodity scale" that links the two major cash-rich tycoon's north and south, a White Monday.

A scandal exposed by Cory Mercado Manila Tollways Corp. (CMTC), which is backed by conglomerate San Miguel Corp., calls for the construction of an elevated toll road from the Skyway in Makati to Quezon City, over the Balintawak entrance (NLEx).

Both proposals are currently being studied by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), but Roxas (ex-Manila) said there both roads travel through different alignments, these would serve different markets. "If possible, why not approve both?" Roxas said.

In the meantime, Pangilinan said the construction of Mills's "Segment 9," that would connect to MacArthur Highway is expected to start by the fourth quarter of the year. He said DPWT was also close to completing its detailed engineering study for Segment 10 that would link to Segment 9 and Mindanao Ave., Segment 9 and 10 make up the "Harbor Link" Road.

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Facilitator: M. CJ McKnight
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: March 14, 2012
Venue: Diamond Room, Diliman

They Call You "Teacher" Seminar: A Look at Your Profession from a Different Perspective
Facilitator: Br. CJ McKnight
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Date: March 17, 2012
Venue: AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Creative Thinking for Leaders and Managers
Facilitator: Mr. Bernard Mesquita
Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: March 20, 2012
Venue: Fiesta Pavilion Hotel

Strategic Market Segmentation and Targeting Seminar
Facilitator: Dr. Neil Doherty
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: March 21, 2012
Venue: Dusit Thani, Makati City

Six Thinking Hats Workshop
Facilitator: Dr. Rene Bañares
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: April 12 - 13, 2012
Venue: New World Hotel

Facebook Marketing 101
Facilitator: Mr. Anton Diaz
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: April 13, 2012
Venue: AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Essentials of Brand Equity Seminar
Facilitator: Dr. Neil Doherty
Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: April 26, 2012
Venue: Diamond Room, Diliman

Happy at Work 2.0 Conference 2012 Your New Competitive Advantage
Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Date: April 27, 2012
Venue: AIM Conference Center, Makati City

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BCDMPOINT

Partnering for sustained growth, energized future

Meralco honors LGUs for best practices in governance

By Kirk R. Crampo

Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian leads Valenzuela City's pursuit of growth and development opportunities.

Eight charging and five electric crematorium in Mandaluyong. Twenty-minute processing of licenses and permits in Valenzuela. Makati's recovery facilities in every barangay of Batangas City. Mushrooming malls and industrial parks in Dasmariñas City, Cavite. The growing BPO industry in Makati...The signs of progress are visible and local governments are leading the charge.

These, among other noteworthy government initiatives, would likely result in an increase in businesses opening in Valenzuela and more jobs being created in Makati and Dasmariñas while citizens enjoy more amenities in Mandaluyong and livelier and cleaner environment in Batangas.

Such initiatives by these five local government units (LGUs) are outstanding examples of forward thinking, deliberate implementation and political will that make for sustainable growth and development.

These LGUs have also found a strong ally in Meralco, which not only provides them with reliable power source but strategic advice that enables them to optimize energy use and improve operational efficiency.

They are glowing examples of good governance and public service, and were awarded by Meralco for exceptional achievements and a solid relationship with the distribution utility during the first Meralco Luminaires awards night held recently at the Marriott Hotel.

Valenzuela emerged as the top honoree, while Mandaluyong, Makati, Dasmariñas and Batangas were recognized for their outstanding efforts to push growth and development.

These joint efforts have successfully led to optimized energy consumption, improved operational efficiencies and energized public service projects that translate to tangible benefits for constituents.

Valenzuela City stood out for its "1C Biz Bilis" program where business permits and licenses are processed in 20 minutes. The program is part of the city's aggressive pursuit of growth and development opportunities as it seeks to attract more investors by presenting a hassle-free business environment. Valenzuela has also forged a strong partnership with Meralco.

Aside from being a reliable energy provider, the distribution utility has been largely instrumental in assisting city officials in energy optimization and disaster recovery programs.

In Mandaluyong City, Meralco's support has made possible the Bakuna Lighting Project, the promotion of electric-powered trikes and the opening of an electric-powered crematorium.

In Dasmariñas, Cavite, the distribution utility has aided in the electrification of far-flung areas in Batangas City like the Don Marabut Foundation (DMF), has also lit up schools in Isla Verde.

Meanwhile, Makati City continues to dominate as a business powerhouse through its constant collaboration with its distribution utility to help sustain its 31 Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-accredited information technology (IT) parks, among other business establishments housed in the city.

During the awarding ceremony for the Meralco Luminaires, Meralco Chief Operating Officer Oscar S. Reyes noted that the distribution utility's own growth is driven by the growth of its customers from both the public and private sectors.

"Underpinning this growth is Meralco's commitment to provide adequate, reliable, quality, and affordable service to all our customers. And this is backed up by continuing massive investments in electric distribution projects, in technology, and in innovations, and by the professionalism of our people in Meralco," he said.

For LGU partners, the collaboration with Meralco is more than an ordinary business partnership. It becomes a driver for success. With this success, the distribution utility's active support for community infrastructure, policy improvement and public service projects of its LGU partners becomes its own contribution to the larger task of nation-building.

Mandaluyong City showcases its electric crematorium and e-trike program.

The "greening" of Batangas City flourishes under the leadership of Mayor Vilma Dimacuha.

Makati's gleaming skyline reflects the city's growth and progress as a favored BPO destination.

Major malls including SM are proof of Dasmariñas City's surging infrastructure.

Meralco SVP Mr Pantilo, Head of Customer Retail Services & Corporate Communications, Lorenzo (right) and Meralco CEO Bahay Dy Hap Lorenzo with Bank, LGU honorees (from left) Batangas City Mayor Vilma Dimacuha, Valenzuela Rep. Rex Gatchalian representing Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, Dasmariñas City Mayor Jennifer Barzaga, Makati City Mayor Junjun Binay and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos.

BUSINESS

Gov't ready to spend P7B/yr for electrification

Target: Provide electricity to at least 90% of households by 2017

Power Situation Outlook
for Wednesday, 7 March 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,378	1,604	1,125
System Peak (MW)	7,912	1,355	1,260
Gross Reserve (MW)	1,364	260	-135

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is prepared to spend as much as P7 billion a year to fast-track the completion of projects that will provide electricity to all towns in the country, including those in the most remote provinces.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad made the announcement during the Philippine economic briefing yesterday, as he enumerated the planned governmental expenditures under the Aquino administration.

The P5-billion budget for electrification, however, was denounced today by Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

Almendras said the Department of Energy would concentrate in rolling out electrification projects in the rural areas using the P3 billion budget originally earmarked for this endeavor.

Almendras admitted that President Aquino had earlier asked the DOE to spend P7 billion for rural electrification projects.

"We will try to roll out the P3 billion budget first before we even talk about spending P7 billion for rural electrification projects. We have to remember that the single largest disbursement is roughly P800 million on any given year, so we have to have a system that can handle that amount," Almendras said.

The energy chief said the government had readily funds that it could use to for those projects.

The energy chief said the government's aggressive movement thrust to provide electricity to at least 90 percent of all households by 2017 was rooted on the belief that electricity stimulates economic growth in the rural areas.

By providing access to electricity, people in the rural areas are also being empowered and are given the chances to have better access to education, livelihood and a chance for a brighter future. This was also expected to create a more dynamic distribution of resources in the country.

Last year, the DOE and the National Electrification Administration were able to provide electricity to 1,320 cities within a record period of 98 days. The P614-million rural electrification project, which was carried out in the last quarter of 2011, is now benefiting one thou 30,000 households.

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Building an in-house data center can be, to put it mildly, very tedious. It entails more than a hefty amount of cash—it also means extra handling time and additional manpower requirements. There are also exist costs down the road, mainly due to daily management, maintenance and upgrades as they inevitably come up. It is, more reasonable—almost a no-brainer—to outsource your datacenter requirements. This ensures a high quality of service delivered in the fastest possible time, at a more fraction of do-it-yourself expenses.

Third-party collocation also gets you specialized data center solutions custom-built to your special needs. This way, you take full advantage of utility-based data center services and spend only on the solutions you need. You also enjoy scalability to pace your organizations expansion. And to guide you through every step is a throng of technical experts to guarantee that all data center features—such as redundant power systems and reliable networks—run seamlessly. Freed from many IT issues, organizations are able to focus more exclusively on mission-critical functions. Therefore, when you outsource your data center needs, you experience the convenience, cost savings, and maximum levels of service assurances from a reputable provider.

VITRO Data Center, the Philippines' first purpose-built Tier 3S Internet Data Center (IDC), offers both Collocation and Managed Space—perfect for enterprises with greater demands for high-capacity facilities and bandwidth. VITRO's Wholesale Collocation Service offers organizations seamless data center relocation for efficient ICT operations. Fabricated rack matches optimum environments and are coupled with expert bed resilience. They are built to secure higher business uptime and minimal disruption, just the way IT operations should be.

All necessary data center space planning has also been long pre-determined and "operationalized" by certified VITRO experts. More than ever, enterprises can capitalize on best-in-class facilities, business-supportive amenities, and high quality service levels. The Collocation space engagement allows customers to customize several facets of their data center use, including unique zones of physical security—such as fenced areas, additional access control devices, and remotely monitored CCTV cameras—as well as special considerations on network infrastructure.

VITRO's Managed Space further simplifies ICT operations through industry grade collocation services. Installations range from single-server to complex clustered environments with all equipment control performed either on-site or remotely. The Managed Space Service provides you with 24/7 professional support for your chosen server environment and network infrastructure. It also accommodates special arrangements for server administration and monitoring.

Today, enterprises can conveniently expand or back-up their IT operations and successfully outsource their internet presence projects through VITRO's top-grade Collocation services. These outsourced solutions effectively channel resources to guarantee cost-savings and less IT hassles, allowing companies to focus on what they do best.

MGI, UPLB ink watershed management agreement

MAIBARARA Geothermal Inc., which is developing a P2.6-billion geothermal power plant in Mt. Makiling, signed last week an agreement with the University of the Philippines Los Baños for the project and effective watershed management at the Makiling-Banahaw service contract area in Batangas.

AboitizPower Resources Corp., which owns a 65-percent stake in MGI, said in a statement that the memorandum of understanding signed by the two parties would allow MGI to extend financial and logistical assistance for UPLB's watershed research and infrastructure activities.

UPLB, for its part, will assist MGI in watershed rehabilitation, management and information campaigns.

MGI is developing an integrated 20-megawatt steam field and power plant in the service contract area, which covers a portion of the Makiling Forest Reserve. All the power infrastructure development, however, will be outside the forest reserve, AboitizEnergy stressed.

UPLB has control, jurisdiction and administration of the Makiling Forest Reserve by virtue of Republic Act 6967.

"Although none of our project facilities will be inside the forest reserve, MGI is delighted to work with UPLB in ensuring a healthy watershed in our service contract area which is vital to groundwater recharge and sustainability of the geothermal reservoir," said MGI president Francisco G. Delfin Jr.

UPLB Chancellor Rex Victor O. Cruz welcomed the partnership, and assurance by MGI, saying they would be helpful to UPLB in fulfilling its mandate to protect and conserve the Makiling Forest Reserve.

"The MOU demonstrates how renewable energy development advances the cause of environmental protection in the country," said Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. Amy R. Remo

MVP agrees with Roxas on toll projects

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUSINESS executive Manuel V. Pangilinan may push through with his "connector road" project, even if the government approves a similar road proposal backed by San Miguel Corp.

Pangilinan, chair of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), said he agreed with Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas who earlier said that two north-to-south tollroads in different locations in Metro Manila spells excess.

Under most concession deals, the government usually rejects other proposals that may affect the profitability of the first project.

"The government has been saying that competition is good for the consumer. In fact," said Pangilinan.

MPIC subsidiary Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) offered to build a road from the Metro Manila Skyway to the Port area in Tondo. This would link to the planned "Harbor Link" section of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

MPIC is the local unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcano

TOYOTA INNOVA

The Pinoy everyman's MPV

By Tess R. Salazar

WHEN FILIPINOS love someone or something, expect them to express it in sheer numbers.

It's considered the country's best-selling commercial vehicle and the most successful multi-purpose vehicle in land-numerous four years. For the more than 70,000 owners, the Toyota Innova has also been a statement of style as well as their credibility. The Innova has, since its introduction in the Philippines in 2005, been considered the everyman's Previa. And that is by all means a compliment, referring more to the high-end style of the pricey Previa family van transplanted in a much more affordable and handier package that fits more the Pinoy lifestyle.

For Toyota Motor Philippines, so cared to seeing unstoppable sales figures shunted out by its vehicle brands, the Innova's market performance has been considered cooking short of phenomenal. As a testament to the demand for the Innova, every 16.7 minutes, a newly assembled Innova rolls out the gates of Toyota Motor Philippines plant.

The Innova has been critically acclaimed, as well, since becoming Car of the Year Philippines for value for money and entry-level MPV categories.

Evolved from the Revo

Seven years ago, the Asian utility-vehicle category of Toyota was in a crossroads. As TMP was about to cease production of its bestseller Revo, a new MPV was planned to take its place. Surprisingly, when known cases in the picture, the resulting market demographics specific to the Revo underwent a marked change. Market studies showed that 50 percent of Innova owners were university graduates or college level students. Revo buyers were comprised of only 37 percent university graduates. Furthermore, 34 percent of Innova buyers were employed at managerial levels, while only 15 percent of Revo buyers were on the same employment level.

Michitoshi Sugata, Toyota Motor Philippines president, said during last week's launch of the new, redesigned Innova, that the vehicle became an instant favorite "for its versatility that has attracted a wider area of the market.

"This is one of the reasons it has become the commercial vehicle of choice for Filipino families across the country. It has held the No. 1 position in the AUV segment since it was introduced to the Philippine market 7 years ago. This is a true sign that Filipino customers have come to love the Innova because of its four advantages over the competition. Last year, the Toyota Innova continued to be the second best-selling vehicle in the market after our Toyota Vios. The Toyota Innova was an integral component of TMP's thrust in achieving our 100th celebration Triple Crown. Although this is the case, we at Toyota understand that our customers have evolving needs. This is why we are offering the Innova's best version yet."

The New Innova is designed to further raise its level in the Multi-Purpose Vehicle category. Still carried on the highly successful IMV (Innovative International Multi-purpose Vehicle) platform, the New Innova is going to get a bolder look with newly designed front and rear fascia. Its new front grille exudes a wider and more aggressive stance that conveys a stronger image. In addition, the vehicle's interior has been updated to create a more elegant feel to ensure a more enjoyable riding experience. The new Innova also features the riding comfort of a passenger car coupled with the performance and security of a sport utility vehicle. These new features, together with the value for money that the Innova is known for, makes this an even more formidable addition to the Toyota product line up.

Sugata stressed that each Innova goes through the "tried and tested Toyota quality protection process."

"Being produced in our Sta. Rosa plant, I am proud to say that this new model is manufactured by the Filipinos for the Filipinos. Everyone's joint efforts have ensured that this vehicle is targeted specifically to address the demand of every Filipino people in an affordable and all-around vehicle."

The 2012 Innova starts at P963,000 for the 2.0 liter gasoline-1 manual transmission variant, and goes up to P1,235 million for the 2.5 liter diesel-V automatic with the white pearl paint option.

PRESENTING: (In New Innova s) Ito Barcelo Eco-Village Resort on (from left) Toyota Motor Philippines EVP Fuji Goto, president Michitoshi Sugata, Toyota product planning assistant engineer Osamu Tamiwa, SVP for marketing Simon Sonvrees and first VP for marketing Raymond Rodrigues

Keeping the wheels of industry turning

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

IT IS interesting to note that sooner of the fastest, the more expensive as well as the plushest ride on the planet are still hand built.

Throughout the manufacturing process of say, the Rolls Royce Ghost, the Bugatti Veyron, or the Ferrari 458 Spider, there will always be someone at every stage of the process, doing the assembling, installing, or fitting of parts.

Which is why this writer was a bit delighted upon seeing rows of technicians and engineers manning the stations at Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s assembly plant in Biñan, Laguna.

Yes, the Consistent sKYn, a blue pick up, as well as light (Elf series) and medium duty (F series) trucks that come out of this particular assembly line may not be the priciest or the most sweat enamoring masterpieces of luxury but they sure had that these models were created through experienced and skilled hands a more than enough to make anyone satisfied.

Prefers people

"Robots are fine but we prefer highly skilled people. They are like artists so much so that I regard each basic vehicle that comes out of this plant as rolling work of art," IPC SVP Takashi Tomita said.

But while almost everything here are fitted to the vehicle by hand, IPC has done everything it can to make life easier for the technicians and engineers.

"Of course, the heavy body parts are picked up by giant cranes if not laid on roller-ways that are carried around the assembly hall. They enable the heavy parts to be raised, lowered or swiveled by the mechanism being fitted, stooping or assuming a no longer necessary," IPC VP for manufacturing Koichi Tamura said.

Wonderful sight

Indeed, it was wonderful to see how an entire drivetrain, containing the engine, gearbox, driveshafts as well as the suspension and brakes, is assembled outside the vehicle's steel shell, and driven to meet the body using a cart that moves through rails.

As our group observed, these intimidate work with such finesse that one would think their job is easily accomplished by anyone.

Which is why when Isuzu planned to "insert" us into the assembly line for "A Day at Isuzu" event, some of us had some hesitation considering that would be the first time we will be operating the tools and equipment employed in the assembly of Isuzu's light and medium duty trucks.

In fact, this was also in the mind of the engineers at the assembly line.

Convenient and safe

Considering the months and years that IPC technicians and engineers spent in mastering their assigned work as well as the intricacies of operating the machines and equipment used in the assembly area, Tamura as well as Quality Control officer, engineer Angel Cello Jr., rightfully decided that it would be much more convenient as well as safe to just let us observe as closely close to the process.

I particularly welcome the idea considering I have no intention of breaking IPC's zero accident days record or even of one of the exceptional hand quality of this light and medium duty trucks that come out of this ISO 14001:2004-certified plant.

A PRODUCT of the Isuzu-Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Automotive Training Center in Tayabas, Pedro's Nora Hinost finds herself at home in this male-dominated work area.

EACH truck vehicle was created through experienced and skilled hands.

RAILED carts carry parts throughout the assembly area.

Adhered

Nevertheless, I still enjoyed the newly assigned task. It felt great that IPC still adhered to maintaining hand operations, thus promoting domestic auto manufacturing and jobs generation.

"For 6 Day at Isuzu' event, we have chosen to feature our workforce (males considering they are, literally and figuratively, males) that plays the Philippine economy forward. These trucks are vital to our nation's economic prosperity and plays a significant role in maintaining adverse economies of scale during a national or regional emergency. Our economy depends on trucks to deliver million tons of virtually every commodity consumed," Tamura explained.

No wonder, Isuzu's S-Series has been the country's best selling light-duty commercial truck since 1999, a record run of 13 years straight.

Tamura reported that just last year, the S-Series captured 69.4 percent share of the country's light truck market segment after selling 1,196 units, a great improvement from 2010's 1,030 figure (67.1 percent market share).

Local glass leader Aguila celebrates 60th year in local automotive business

By Charles E. Buban

IT'S EASY to overlook the accomplishments of Aguila Auto Glass (Universal Glass Co. Inc.), a local manufacturer that for 60 years has been instrumental in providing automobiles and even private car owners in the Philippines with one of their most crucial vehicle components: Automotive glass.

Indeed, it's hard to appreciate something that you just look through. But imagine driving without the wind shield, the rear, door and quarter glasses...driving would be a much cozier experience.

"With a proud heritage and 60 years of experience, Aguila Auto Glass has become a trusted leader in the local automotive glass market," enthused The Bartenders, Aguila Auto Glass marketing manager.

Aguila Auto Glass was founded in Feb. 14, 1952, by brothers Lucio Aguila and his wife, Maria Gabriela, at an office located at the corner of Real avenue (Avenida Real) and Mayhaligue in Manila.

Partnership

From the very beginning, the company has partnered with internationally renowned glass industry leaders including PPG, Pilkington and Mitsubishi to upgrade its manufacturing capability and improve the quality of its products as well as to make the concept of "see it, smell, while you wait" (providing the right product for a particular model at the quickest time) possible.

Today, Aguila Auto Glass is the leading source of automotive safety glass in the Philippines carrying the most extensive range of glass-related items including windshields, backglass, sideglass, tempered glass, safety laminated glass, multilayered glass sealants, acrylic plastic, rubber, channels and mirrors for various automotive replacement applications.

The company carries over 1,000 types of automotive glass for both old and late-model of various Japanese, Korean, American, European, and Chinese brands including original and replacement windshields for a huge range of imported luxury models from Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Porsche.

For buses and trucks

The company also specializes in bus and truck windshields to employ sizes as well as made-to-order glass for various specialty vehicles such as the Philippine utility vehicle Jeep and rare car restoration projects.

The company carries over 1,000 types of automotive glass for both old and late-model of various Japanese, Korean, American, European, and Chinese brands including original and replacement windshields for a huge range of imported luxury models from Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Porsche.

To reach its fifth year as well as to give back to the community it serves, Aguila Auto Glass gathered 200 of its employees and planted 200 young mahogany trees on the banks of land inside the La Mesa Eco Park in Quezon City.

"We will present a banner of heroes for three years to remind us that all our hard work will be in vain if our children will not have a healthy world to live in. Today's student especial as we celebrate our togetherness and plant seeds for our future," Bonvanno said.

Aguila Auto Glass is also an active partner of community provider General Railroad wherein the company has been a major provider of window glasses since 2008.

Aguila Auto Glass is also an active supporter of the Philippine Eagle Foundation since 2009.

Kia reveals all-new 'K9' flagship sedan for Korean market

SEOUL—Kia recently revealed the first official photographs of its all-new flagship sedan to be launched during the first half of this year in the Korean market. Dubbed by its codename "K9" until now, the company also confirmed that the Korean market name will be "K900"—while the name for export markets, as well as overseas launch timings, will be revealed later this year.

K9 is Kia's first rear-wheel drive sedan. It boasts Kia's "best of the best" design, driving performance and high technology capabilities and is regarded as one of 2012's most eagerly anticipated all-new models in both Korean and overseas markets.

This model's Korean market name, K9, will complete

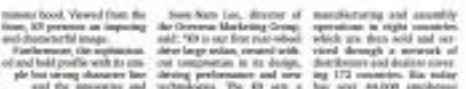
Kia's domestic market 'K' series range of passenger cars, whose members also include the front-wheel drive K5 (Optima in overseas markets) and K7 (Cadenza in overseas markets) sedans.

The letter "K" represents not only Kia and the company's home country of Korea, but also refers to the Greek word "Kratos" (meaning powerful, dominant and regal) and the English word "Kinetic" (meaning active, dynamic).

The "K" series trio of sedans is a strong statement of Kia's determination to offer consumers the broadest product line-up and establish itself as a major presence in the global automotive industry through ceaseless innovation and technological developments.

The K9's exterior gives solid form to the recently released sketches of the new model, and presents its design concept, "high-tech luxury sedan" image, with futuristic, sophisticated and distinctive character.

K9 is the latest manifestation of Kia's evolving design DNA, carrying its family look radiator grille, bold "high-tech luxury ear" style LED headlamps, with classic design echoes in its wide



from State Lee, director of the Overseas Marketing Group, said: "K9 is our first rear-wheel drive large sedan, created with our compromises in its design, driving performance and new technologies. The K9 sets a whole new level of market and raises in the large sedan segment, and its design will be another Kia demonstration of our brand's power to surprise the world."

Kia Motors Corp. (www.kia.com)—a maker of quality vehicles for the young at heart—was founded in 1944 and is Korea's oldest manufacturer of motor vehicles. Over 2.1 million Kia vehicles a year are produced in 11 manufacturing and assembly operations in eight countries, which are then sold and serviced through a network of distributors and dealers covering 172 countries. Kia today has over 44,000 employees worldwide and annual revenues of over $29 billion. It is the major sponsor of the Australian Open and an official automotive partner of FIFA—the governing body of the FIFA World Cup. Kia Motors Corporation's latest campaign—"The Power to Surprise"—represents the company's global commitment to surpassing customer expectations through continuous automotive innovation.

Super cars find new playground

Is the luxury market pie in the Philippines getting bigger, or are there just more hungry mouths to feed on the same serving of cake?

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE NEWLY-OPENED Autostyle Motors Inc. has the Ferrari 458 Italia on offer.

THE GS 350 is now available at the PT Auffino Lexus Manila showroom.

THE LAMBORGHINI showroom at the Bonifacio Global City houses the Aventador.

IS THIS a sign of the (good) times? There are more global brands in the Philippines right now—four supercar dealers, four eyewear dealers, four clothing companies, a real estate developer with Chain of the Trump Tower, and even exclusive hospital Fort Bilibid—to bring the latest Urban Resort home, and now the premium auto brands have landed on local shores, fully endorsed by their Ford World Headquarters. We know these expensive toys could run like the wind. We didn't know they could shop, too, as well.

But a point of clarification first. Just before PM let me new to premium cars. There have been others here long before the Lexus and the Lembo came in, let us not forget the Volvo proudly displayed in Viking Cars, the Mercedes Benzes lounging at the OKD showroom, Bentley Porsches and Audis in Polo Cars, burning RMFs at ADC Orient Carmakers Corp., and, of course, Toyota's premium brand Lexus, whose Pl.illion showroom at the Bonifacio Global City is home to the only supercar LFA unit in the country. There, to add glamour, last Feb. 28, Lexus Manila launched the GS Series (GS 350 and GS 450 F Sport), which Toyota Motor Philippines president Michitoshi Sugata described as "a bolder, deeper, more confident high-performance sedan offering more than a just aggressive driving dynamics and aggressive styling."

To top things off for Lexus, the GS450h Hybrid will be introduced next quarter to complete the full line-up of the GS series.

So, can we consider the following event the icing on the super premium car segment? On March 2, Autostyle Motors Inc. held a press conference and a party to announce to the local motoring public that it would be the first exclusive distributor of Ferrari and Maserati in the Philippines, and that its showroom at the 32nd and South Cypress Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, officially opens that day. Two models were unveiled for the Prancing Horse and the Maserati Granturismo MC Stradale.

Ferrari—a premium sports car manufacturer with its headquarters in Maranello, Italy—is renowned for world cars for its success in racing, particularly in Formula One. Maserati—a luxury car brand based in Modena, Italy—has produced award winning coupes and sedans such as the Quattroporte, GranCabrio and Quattroporte.

Autostyle Motors Inc. consortium members together with its lawyer-certified owners-come: Herbert Applewhite, president and CEO of Ferrari Asia Pacific; Alessandro Bogliolini, head of region, Ferrari Asia Pacific (Other Countries, Eastern Mediterranean region and sales director for South East Asia Pacific of Maserati; and Wellington C. Soong, chair and president of Autostyle Motors Inc., were glad with the guests. These two brands will join Jeongo's existing brands Land Rover and Jaguar.

Soong told Inquirer Motoring that the range of interest for his four brands "is all in the same benchmark."

Soong said that "we have been chosen by the Maserati and Ferrari brands to be the sole country to distribute, that we must be proud of the choice. That says a lot. For the Philippines to have Ferrari, we have to celebrate."

Applewhite said that "the entire range will be available in the market, imported by Autostyle Motors Inc. the pattern we've chosen and why chosen with in the garages for Ferrari and its others."

Divas of global brands

Soong added: "There are seven in the past 10 years that so many global brands are in the country now. Any premium boutique stores...equivalent to the stores they've got are in any country in the world like New York and Los Angeles. They're not here for nothing. They see something. I've never seen so many premium restaurants. So many talented chefs, so many fine dining French chefs. They're not a fluke. Because we have so many fine restaurants to enjoy. This is what we're saying. 'After just contributing to that appetite for luxury.'

Among investors said Soong, the business drew first. "We've not talking about 1 000 Ferrari units sold this year, maybe 10 to 15, just for the Ferrari brand alone. This year will be very interesting."

Lorna Manila president Daniel Ido told Inquirer Motoring that the growing numbers of luxury retailers in the country "is a definite sign that the Philippine economy could very well be on the road to significant recovery."

"The presence of premium-brand distributors is a testament of the confidence of their mother companies in the country. Because opening up a distributorship dealership is an expensive exercise, and unless there are clear potential indicators, no businessman will make such a bold move."

Ido added that while luxury brands do not relate to the mass market, it is remarkable how much the willingness of those in the upper strata of society has evolved to a particular taste for a lifestyle of luxury as a personal reward for their achievements in life.

PGA Cars Inc. corporate affairs director Amado del Rosario offers a different take on the local luxury auto landscape. "The luxury car segment has been quite static over the last 10 years and has not changed much in terms of additional sales from new buyers."

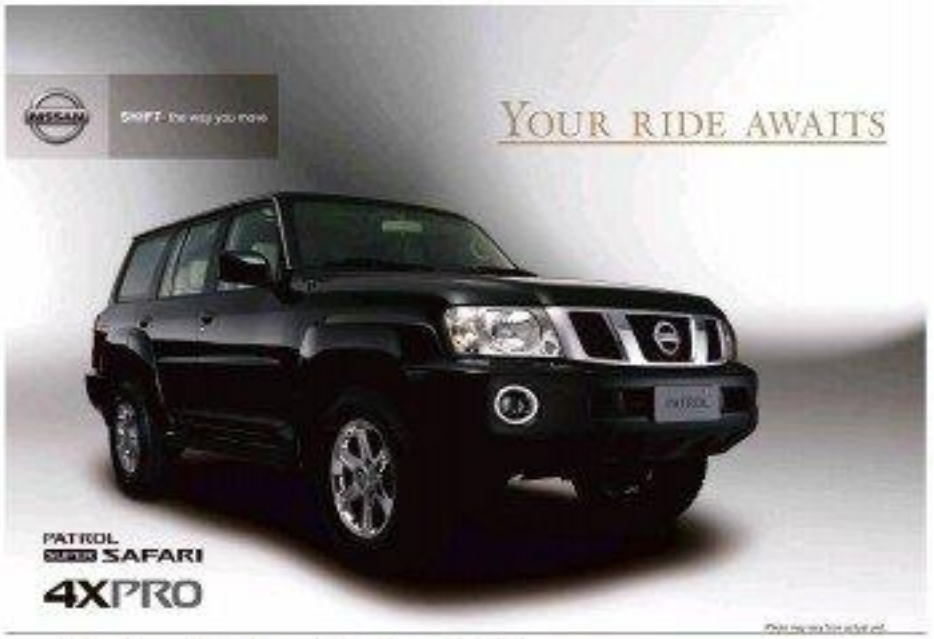
"New brands entering the market are just eating into the share of other brands," Del Rosario observed.

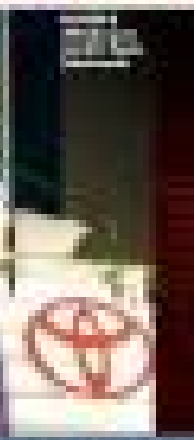
When the new Mustang arrived at the area selling to all new premium entrants, including the Lamborghini brand which PGA, incredible—is sister company of PGA Cars (the official distributor of Porsche and Audi)—will soon distribute luxury super sports car brand/s, he announced. "All new entrants, as well as existing importers of luxury car brands," Del Rosario added that "there have been a lot of negative factors dampening the growth of the luxury segment."

Ido said that tonight "might be true."

"But looking at our country's macroeconomics, we're all the way from the figures of our neighbors, i.e., Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. If our economy continues to improve, which is more likely, our growth potential is really big. A good business move is to establish presence in the marketplace before the boom takes us," he explained.

Time to their characters, supercars, the drivers of the marketing world, enter last, and finish first.





Play and displ in Boraca

INNOVA

WELCOMING the Ferrari Grand to the Philippines are (from left) Automeda Motors Inc. executive director Marc Soong, Ferrari Asia Pacific head of region Simon Ingsfield, president and CEO of Ferrari Asia Pacific Herbert Appleroth, Automeda Motorella, chair and president Wellington Soong, Maserati sales manager in Asia Pacific Gustavo Marino and Automeda Motorella, executive director Jason Soong.

POSING beside the Ferrari 458 Italia are (from left) Willie Soong, Marc Soong, Herbert Appleroth and Simon Ingsfield.

WELL Marc, Jason Soong and Gustavo Marino

Ferrari: More about passion than sales figures

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT TOOK eleven long years of passionate courtship, but finally last week enamoreuse par excellence Wellington C. Soong won the privilege of bringing the Ferrari and Maserati super sports car brands here.

At the showroom opening last Thursday to Southeast Global City of Automeda Motors Inc., the official dealer of Ferrari and Maserati cars in the Philippines, Herbert Appleroth, president and CEO of Ferrari Asia Pacific, said, referring to Soong's unwavering perseverance: "Ferrari is like a beautiful woman. You have to court her passionately to capture her."

He added that the Philippines has always had a love affair with Ferrari. The first Ferrari came to the PH in 1952 and there are more than 60 well-maintained Ferraris here. Good news for Ferrari and Maserati owners: together with the Automeda showroom launch, a factory-certified service center for the two legendary brands was inaugurated.

The passion

From the start of the media interview, the Tokyo-based Appleroth, Shanghai-based head of region for Ferrari Asia Pacific Other Countries Simon Ingsfield and Maserati South-east Asia and Pacific regional sales director Gustavo Marino focused on the passion of the Ferrari Maserati experience rather than on the number of cars sold and delivered in each country.

"We want the passion for Ferrari to reach a bigger section of the motoring public," they said. "You don't have to own one to enjoy or appreciate it. Formula One, where Ferrari has raced for over 60 years, and a lot of Ferrari and Maserati merchandise bring the passion closer to people."

Willy Soong, chair and president of Automeda Motors, declared that it is "aligned with the non-compromising, artistic culture, passion, technical excellence and unique style of the brand." Ferrari Maserati is now in 56 markets, with the Philippines as the 50th. In the Asia-Pacific region aside from the PH, Ferrari Maserati has official dealerships in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.

Figures

Pressed for sales figures, Appleroth revealed that in 2011, Ferrari delivered 7,000 cars worldwide with 40 percent of these in the Asia-Pacific. Maserati had 6,116 deliveries were sold globally in 2011, with the United States as the biggest market, gaining 2,441 cars and China, the second biggest, getting 850 cars.

The regional executives said that they look to Asia, especially China, for growth while the European and North American markets remain as constant pillars in terms of value. "The whole of Asia is growing in prosperity. Look around and you can see the vitality," Appleroth said, praising at the endless variation of Southeast Global City.

They chose Willie Soong as import, distributor and service franchisee/agent in the PH because "he is a man of integrity," Appleroth said. "This is important because our customers must feel safe. Every market is different and we take into consideration integrity, reputation and success." Aside from several business enterprises in other fields, Soong's Formula Sports, Inc. began distributing Jaguar cars in 1997 and the Land Rover brand in 2006.

Different

Every Asian country is different, too, Appleroth noted. "What is similar is the date of delivery: it has to be done on an auspicious date, a date of good fortune. Even the choice of color and venue of delivery are influenced by feng shui. In a certain year, no white or black, for example. We have become aware of Asian customs and superstitions.

"What unites everyone is the passion for the brand, the soul and spirit of Ferrari. The passion is shared in every venue. You belong to a family within the country. Once you are a Ferrari, you share a common bond, no matter what language you speak. For us, it's the brand and the passion for it is growing. The brand is more than just the car. It's the ultimate with the limited-through-to merchandise and through matching Formula One. It's the expression of what Ferrari can achieve."

Little boys

"There is something about a Ferrari that any grown man still has like boys," the December 2011 issue of Forbes Life India has been quoted as saying. "When we take the cover off a Ferrari, the look in the eyes of all the people is like a little boy's." Appleroth corroborated. Indeed, when the beautiful red Pininfarina-designed Ferrari 458 Italia was unveiled, there was a moment of awe and stunned silence in the Automeda showroom—a silence that was broken by the screwdriver, until-shaking roar of the 562-hp V8 engine when Bhah Soong revved it.

Across the showroom behind a Maserati Granturismo MC Stradale, the first street-legal Maserati ran, the first to top 300 km per hour, the first road-going Maserati to have a dedicated Race mode, and the most powerful model in the Granturismo range.

THE MASERATI Granturismo MC Stradale, the first street-legal Maserati car

HELE system

All this power doesn't mean that Ferrari Maserati overlooks the importance of the environment. At the 2011 Geneva Auto Show, the 458 Italia featured Ferrari's HELE (High Efficiency, Low Emissions) system, which cuts emissions by as much as 23 percent and improves fuel economy without sacrificing performance. Also in Geneva, Ferrari launched the FF grand touring M Coupe powered by a 6.3-liter injection 651-liter F12 engine with 661 hp and the automaker's first AWD system.

Ingsfield said that the FF fits four occupants as the back seat can accommodate two 6 footers. Despite an opening in the market for a four-door GT, Ingsfield said that it still there 30 years ago, he said there is no need to limit the design of a car to fit four people. (Ditto he referring to the Porsche Panamera?)

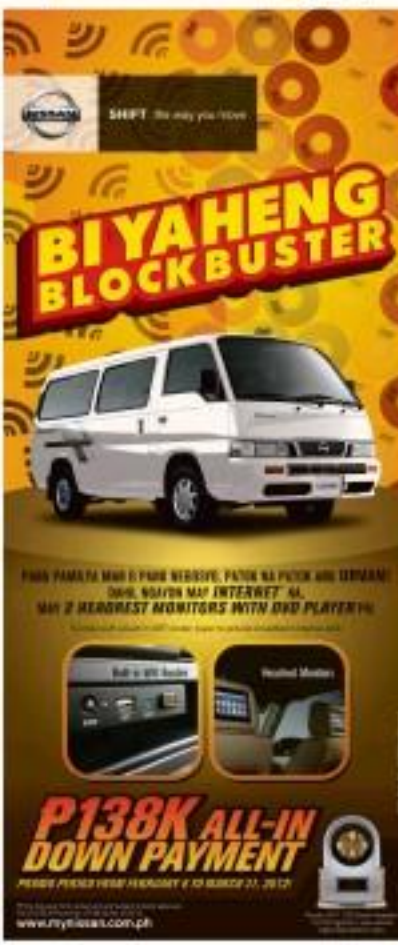
Still on energy efficiency, Appleroth said that the Ferrari factory in Maranello, Italy is one of the most important elements of the small carbon footprint of the brand. It is 10 years ahead of EU regulations and is completely self-sufficient in energy.

Cost

Now for the big question: how much would a Ferrari cost? "It depends on the model and level of customization," Soong replied. "The price ranges from P16 million to P30 million." (The 458 Italia on PH+ million.) (The 458 Italia on PH+ million.) Another journalist told me: was already sold for P27 million.)

As for the average waiting time for a Ferrari, Soong said that if the car is within Automeda Motors's allocation, delivery can be made to six nine months. Once the allocation is limited, it would take one year. Naturally, he keeps asking for a bigger allocation, Appleroth remarked, laughing.

Meanwhile, Ferrari achieved its goal to deliver 7,000 cars worldwide by the close of 2011 after delivering 6,755 in 2010. It was Ferrari's best year ever. "For months after the next day the question was: What can we do better?" Appleroth answered. "Like F1, you can't stop, you have to keep going because the competitors won't stop."



Tire blowout no laughing matter

Gary Suarez

By Tessa B. Salazar

BOOM. The explosive sound launched me and my love interest inside the car into overdrive. The thought-to-movement had lobbed a grenade at us.

That was one of my most vivid recollections as a motoring reporter. That was 12 years ago, two weeks to 6 months prior to Hyundai Philippines launching its Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV). We also brought with us my old service pickup. I was designated captain of the AUV and we were on our way back to Manila after an enjoyable trip to Sagada, Mountain Province. Then our two-vehicle convoy met a downmoving, heavily laden 10-wheeler truck on the opposite direction. The pickup passed it without incident.

Then, a second later, when it was our turn to pass, the explosion happened.

It turned out that the truck's 5-hundred-ish left rear tire suffered a side-wall blowout. The pneumatic force of the explosion sent us driving God knows where before my AUV's left front-end hood sprouted and gouged out the left signal light. Fortunately, apart from the fear and nerves, no one was hurt. But we gave quite a scrape-ity to on the accident report. A respected reader besides wanted to see the overhead truck tire.

I have had numerous encounters with tires throwing tantrums, owing to a job that keeps me driving and on the road. Two years ago, I was driving my own service vehicle, a 6-year-old pickup in Antipolo, Batangas, at around 8 a.m. Tires I installed hastening within 1 thought at first it wasn't one of my tires, so I just kept on driving. Later on, however, I felt the vehicle's steering system begin to veer. There, a quick stop to the road revealed to my tires. I stopped near a police station and discovered I was already running flat, with an oversteering drop to sight. Good thing I brought along a properly inflated spare tire and tools. The flat merely caused me a 35-minute delay.

Most recently, another tire gave up on me one midnight on an isolated highway south of Manila. The front tire of my sedan was over-dump-turned-by-him, tightening my trunk. Again, presence of mind and proper replacement tires and tools saved the night.

For tires and blowouts occurs, are accidents. It's not a matter of if, but when, and then "when" chooses no time, and acts accordingly.

But even the tire experts are spared from blowouts.

Mariano Gonzales, vice president for sales and marketing of GT Radial Philippines, encourages a tire accident he would never forget.

"Since I had a road mishap on my way back home from Baguio. My rear right tire burst because I ran over the edge of a road being repaired in the SLEX. A big hit-n-miss on my vehicle. It was a close-down that made me swerve my vehicle to the edge. The sharp edge hit the sidewall and the tire burst. Good thing I was just running 80 kph and I was able to control the vehicle. I immediately put on the hazard lights and slowly made the way to the shoulder of the highway."

Orcampo said that since they were on the shoulder, his crew members immediately helped to detect traffic, placing the early warning device (EWD) at a proper distance from the vehicle while running a handbrake, while he proceeded to change his tire.

Orcampo could be considered lucky of the luckier ones: Tire blowouts are many times the cause of vehicular accidents.

Several years ago, the Automobile Tire Dealers of the Americas Incorporated, Board of Trade, sponsored accident prevention division of Allstate Insurance Co. in its findings that almost 25 percent of fatal accidents on the highways are caused by tire troubles.

"When a blowout happens to you, stay calm, and maneuver your vehicle to the side of the road. The steering feel will change, so you will have to grip the steering wheel hard and strong to balance the vehicle. Most modern high-end vehicles still have two layers of tire to do it for you. Again, it is much easier if you just perform preventive maintenance. When you experience a blowout, it could mean that you have been neglecting your tires, or the tires you have are not good. Replace them," Sam Uranza, tire care expert and owner of Gasoline Gun Wheels, said.

Especially during this monsoon season, where more than usual driving and maneuvering is more required, the extra attention paid to tires could be well-worth it.

Orcampo added that the high air stability temperatures during summer can play a crucial role on tire performance and longevity.

"Temperatures can rise to as high as 60 degrees C, and we know what heat can do. When said heat is directly proportional to the temperature. The higher the temperature, the higher the wear and tear. Add to that the road surface temperature and you have compounded the effect."

Orcampo explained that air pressure in likewise directly proportional to temperature. High temperatures expand air pressure as much as 23 percent. Disagreement of tire inflation, therefore, is important. Check out your tire sidewall, which will guide you how much pressure you should put into your tires.

Uranza added that tracks in your tires are always bad news.

"Those tracks are water channels any time, especially when you are traveling fast and your tires are hydroplaning. You might end up in a ditch or worse you might set to scrapping your tires."

Orcampo suggested using nitrogen gas for inflation instead of ordinary compressed air. Nitrogen, he explained, is a dryer gas compared to ordinary air. The coefficient of expansion is high, air, which means less expansion and cooler runs. Nitrogen molecules are less massive than oxygen molecules, which causes them to run hotter, efficient and more fuel economical for all. The interior is truly a cozier interior if less bulged and contoured to provide comfortable fit for all. The low-profile tires/rims prefer the Innova premium by because it is pretty cliche to say or what it does, and despite the supposedly luxury suspension, it pretty comfortable once loaded up.

For driver interior sports cars and exotic cars, middle-aged is be very tense, wondering whether an underdrone valve will crash into your ride-wise means tempts your lean bumper or fall into your door and get stuck. In the Innova with the company of good friends, it is still good.

I hope when Toyota updates the Innova again, they release it with a 5-speed automatic, a SUT turbo or the 1.6-liter diesel engine, perhaps all of the above.

That should make the Innova even more fun to drive.

Email the author at tsalazar@abs-cbn.com

MINUS tools: Some without (rear tire tools).

recessions," Orcampo said.

"But some markets, or generally, have a protocol especially on commercial ones. You may notice that rims are matched sets which be permissible." Such a practice adds a few millimeters more on the overall depth that can give extra mileage and maximize tire costs."

Orcampo also shared these reminders:

•Choose rims that suit your usage.

•Do not use repaired or donated tires.

•Rotate your tires regularly, including your rims to rim.

•Check and maintain your vehicle's mechanical aspects—alignment, camber, and balance.

•Check your tire pressure daily and maintain the suitable inflation pressure. Use nitrogen over ordinary compressed air when possible.

•Follow speed limits.

•Change your driving habits. Be a disciplined driver.

The three things and you will experience the performance level of your tire. Consequently, you will reap the rewards and discover value for money."

Remembering a road trip with the Innova

SO AFTER much fanfare, Toyota has unveiled a new Innova, the most popular people carrier today. Well, save as to much as a new grill, and a bunch of other small tidbits were added into the Innova. While I regretfully failed to join the festivities in the magnificent island of Boracay, I can now only imagine being there with potentially all of the motoring media and some of the business boys showing up.

Whatever. Toyota knows how to throw a great party and everyone present reported about having fun at the island. And the word 'fun' should me, bringing to all about having fun, enjoying yourself, be it alone or in the company of friends. Which is better: to drive alone, or to drive with friends? I guess you can't really say, as those things depend on your mood. But hey of car you drive, and the road ahead. What's important: I guess, is that you're always moving forward.

One of the most memorable drives of my life, was rather-boundly with Toyota's Fuentes, a summer internship-cum-road trip organized by Toyota Motors Philippines for members of the media. The Fuentes stops at various tourist spots and destinations, all

SKID MARKS
Alvin Sy Santos

leading randomly with, with the one on one side, and the mountain face on the other. Most of all, it was quite empty with only a handful of cars sharing space on the road. If I remember correctly, we rolled out there by Team Top Gear was in fourth with an automatic transmission. On board were editor in chief Vernon Sison, Jaden Evangelista, and Steve Dilloway with yours truly behind the wheel. Uranza-cruising on the laid-back route, which in three important in any road trip. Jaden acted as navigator, and Steve was constantly talking, keeping us energetic to make spots miles of breathtaking landscape, scenery, mountain views, overlooking and lapped up by the breeze. It was a classic road trip. Both Jaden and Steve were still quite new with fun front, at Top Gear, and Jaden was also a newbie working in the motoring beat, while Dinno and I were wondering how things at Top Gear would shape up under new leadership. But all bonded, pulled together that time and the Innova ride helped us all understand and respect each other better.

The Innova itself, in this day to a pretty respectable limit was a bold ladder-on-frame construction with silver body parts setting an assured combination of the overall manner. The 2.5-liter D-4D engine is equipped with a turbocharger that can automatically, as either 6-cent for the top-model 'Conventional' or 7-cent configuration.

With this same powertrain for the Innova, we found ourselves cruising in the Innova's ability to hang up with the police vacuum. Still, from an analog, a new record for traveling between Guimaras and Cebu City, in the Innova's sealed it off top, it was much longer than previous Innova 2.0 Fortuners on the straights. The diesel is the whole, or pick over the thirsty gasoline engine Innova, of course.

And to this day, I love to drive the Innova. For what it represents: fast, efficient and fuel-efficient, and comfortable for all. The Innova is truly a cozier interior if less bulged and contoured to provide comfortable fit for all. The low-profile tires/rims prefer the Innova premium by because it is pretty cliche to say or what it does, and despite the supposedly luxury suspension, it pretty comfortable once loaded up.

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That should make the Innova even more fun to drive.

Email the author at tsalazar@abs-cbn.com

Innova Trivia in Numbers

10,000— Toyota Philippines sold over seventy thousand units as of 2011.

46,000—Models it discounted up to P46,000 for the new Innova buyer when a combination of a Toyota DL Plans or promises generation. Interest models.

2000—The year the innova was launched in the Philippines.

33.10 percent—Market share of Toyota in the Philippine automotive market.

24—Number of Toyota dealers nationwide and counting.

52—The two-liter(s) has a displacement in Centimeters from. With the 1 model of FIELD 2005 (V-FIELD) the top of the line (Variable).

31—Number of Toyota Corporate units by Toyota, ranking members and 6 passenger vehicles, 2 commercial vehicles and several sales in RP.

6—The Innova can seat up to eight passengers. (7 passengers in the V model).

1—Toyota is the number 1 brand of passenger cars, commercial and sport utility units in the market and has held the position since 2003.

Alvin Sy

Shell Eco-marathon cars rev up at the 17th UP Diliman Motorshow

THE 17TH University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman Motorshow dubbed "Sec Up 2012," organized by UP's Sigma and Pentane (SIPE), featured two winning Philippine entries in Shell Eco-marathon (SEM) Asia.

Highlight of the motorshow was UP's guide, Team University of the Philippines Kalbo, which won the Diesel Fuel Award in the Urban Concept category of SEM Asia 2011. Kalbo appeared side by side with its successor version produced by the Eco-car Collectors of the Philippines.

Also on display was Mapua Institute of Technology's Ethanol car Agimat, which clocked up an efficiency of 295 kilometers on a single liter of fuel, enough to travel from Luzon to Agno. In Union. Mapua's entry also won Fuel Runner Up for the Safety award at SEM Asia 2011.

Among the latest thronging motor show were UP's SEM 2012 Team, comprised of Jonathan Rivera, Jea Magsajo, Rainier Hechanova, Jose Reyes and Luis Yu.

Nainier Hechanova, Jose Reyes, and Luis Yu, and Mapua's SEM 2012 Team comprised of Eugene Santos, Ruffelo Manuel "Poemar" Reigera II, Allan Kelvin Lado, and Tze Wee Kang.

UP'S SHELL Eco-marathon (SEM) Team Leader and Shell Philippines Manufacturing Reliability engineer Tito Bendaña (third from left) together with UP's SEM 2012 Team (from left) Jonathan Rivera, Jea Magsajo, Rainier Hechanova, Jose Reyes and Luis Yu.

MAPUA'S SEM 2012 Team, comprised of Eugene Santos, Ruffelo Manuel "Poemar" Reigera II, Allan Kelvin Lado, and Tze Wee Kang.—Ambrosio Magno's students

MOTORING

Editor Jerry N. Aromin

MEDIABOYS of the media take a close look at the Innova.

EIGHT seats with seatbelts for the J, S and E models

ARMCREStraps for both the second- and third-row passengers

THE NEW model-color Optitron instrument gauges

A new face for Toyota's best-selling Innova MPV

This time, the 'Innova-tions' are in the details

By Jason K. Ang

TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines launched the 2012 Innova with a massive event normally reserved for an all-new model. And why not, as the Innova has been at the top of the commercial vehicle charts since it was launched in 2005. Taking over the popular Toyota nameplate, the Innova became the leading multi-purpose vehicle, thanks to its combination of robust and reliable chassis, and up-to-date engines and transmissions.

For the 2012 Innova, it felt...

out of place beside the compact...

...new Alphard luxury van and beside modern American mini-vans. Meanwhile, the rear gets a redesigned rubbing chrome accent garnish, available back-up sensors (with off switch), and a revamped tailgate. Side turn signals mounted in the mirrors make their Innova debut here.

What made the Innova welcome among Filipino users—particularly families—is its modern and functional interior. The Innova features tan-like seating, albeit only a round ride height not so far below an SUV's. Seats are trimmed in velour for the base J version, semi-fabric for the E, full-occupant fabric for the G, and leather for the top-line V. But being an Innova, there is plenty of wood trim—on the doors, dashboard, and on the steering wheel's top arc, too. The steering wheel itself is lifted from the Corolla Altis, with much switchery for the audio and information display.

Innova features eight seats, all with seatbelts. The second row slides forward to give improved access to the rear, and also split-folds and tumbles for easier ingress/egress. The 'E' variant carries seven, thanks to individual captain's chairs in the second row. You can play Captain Kirk to your heart's content, minus the obnoxious swiveling. Speaking of Kirk, he will feel right at home with the new multi-color Optitron instrument gauges. Audio has been upgraded to a shocker unit with Bluetooth connectivity for phone and music streaming.

Powering the Innova is a choice between the 2.0-liter 4VE1 gasoline engine, and the 2.5-liter diesel. The 2.0 litre produces 139 hp and 182 Nm, while the 2.5-liter 1KD-FTV diesel 131 hp and 260 Nm. 2.0 litre for the manual transmission cars. As before, transmission choices are five-speed manual and four-speed automatic.

To allow it a higher cargo and passenger capacity, the Innova uses a body-on-frame chassis, with double wishbones front suspension and four-link setup at the rear, all with coil springs. 15-inch wheels are standard, with alloys standard on all but the base J, which gets steel wheels.

MOTORING

Editor Joey S. Arcano

Beating the summer heat

Tips to get you and your car through the long hot season

By Jason K. Ang

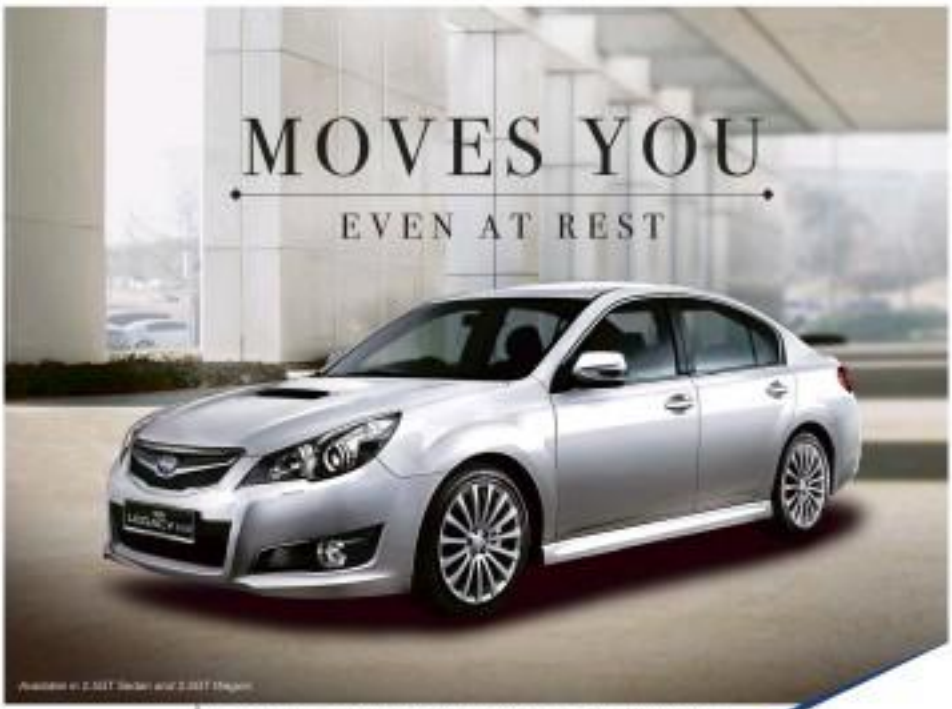
SUMMER BREAK! one a lot of life's little pleasures: barbeques, bikinis, auto shows, and road trips. But it also is a cause of misfortunes of both man and automobile. As the mercury threatens to pop through the glass, it's time to prepare your car to endure what will almost certainly be record temperatures. Here are a few tips to help you and your machine withstand the heat.

1. Check your cooling system. The most important tip to keep a car engine running even in 40-degree road temperatures is to ensure that its cooling system is in good working order. This primarily means the radiator and cooling fans. Check that the cooling fans are spinning properly. Get a professional engine wash, either at the dealer as part of regular maintenance, or in a matter of minutes at your neighborhood garage, to make sure that gunk and soil don't hamper the engine fans and clog the radiator fins. Check your coolant level, and make sure that it's still clean. Older cars require coolant change every couple of years, while newer vehicles have a "lifetime" coolant that doesn't require any change: for 100,000 km or so. Consult your owner's manual to see if a coolant change is required.

2. While you're looking after the radiator, it's good to check the entire engine as well. Motor oil has a cooling function also, and if it's time for your normal oil change, summer is a good time to do it. The battery and electrical system have to cope with a higher load, so it's good to make sure the contacts are clean and that the battery is still within its usable life—3 to 4 years for most battery brands.

3. After the engine itself, the most important component during summer is the air-conditioner. It's normal to be enduring sweaty dog breath at midday it's time to bring it to a specialist. He will likely clean and refresh coolant to bring the system back to full effectiveness. It should stay cool, or else that indicates a leak. Leaks and total system failure are rare for newer automobiles, but good maintenance is key to restoring the performance.

4. Invest in good window treatment. It's not called a greenhouse for nothing: A car's glass area quickly traps solar heat. Some cars come from the factory with darkened



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(LEADING the team for the arrival of the GS are (from left) TMP EVP Tan Guan, TMP senior EVP Dr. David Go, TMP president Mahendru Tagnes, Lexus GS product development Toshinori Ise, Lexus Manila president Daniel Ido and Lexus Manila EVP Hiroaki Yamamoto)

Lexus begins an exciting new phase

By Rob Emilio Mendoza

WITH THE 2012 Lexus GS 350 and GS 350 F Sport now launched at the swanky Lexus Manila showroom last week, Toyota Motor Philippines president Mr Mahendru Tagnes said the GS represents the beginning of a new phase for Lexus that not only is more of the powerful, aggressive and more dynamic design, but in character as well.

Asked to elaborate on this, Lexus Manila president Daniel Ido said, "It is more than the beginning of a new design philosophy. It is also a shift to more sportier and more engaging driving dynamics. Lexus is already known for making vehicles and its dependable ones. Now, we want to make one name to the performance category through the LFA and GS F Sport models."

The LFA, launched at the 2009 Tokyo Motor Show, is a front-mid 4.8-liter V10 supersports car that runs $375,000 and can do 325 kilometers per hour. Only 500 units will be produced for the Lexus brand from 2010 to 2012. A white LFA is currently on display in the Lexus Manila showroom.

Referring to the LFA, Tagnes recalled that when Lexus, Toyota's premium brand, launched it, "we promised that the lessons learned from developing a super car would be translated to other cars in the rest of our vehicles. The GS is the fulfillment of that promise and tonight, I will make another one. I promise you this is just the beginning of more great things for Lexus. The all-new Lexus GS—it is the Lexus that will change everything."

The new GS models, especially the F4.6 liter, sedan GS 350 F Sport, have what it takes to change Lexus' rather staid image and excite, as enthusiasts in a 3.5-liter V6 engine, 8-speed, rear-wheel drive, 4-cylinder with dual Variable Valve Timing with intelligence (VVT-i) cooling 311 hp, mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters and sport-driving functions. It is one of the most powerful base engines in the segment, the only one with both port and direct injection, capable of operating from zero to 100 kph in 5.7 seconds.

Design Ido hopes that with the F Sport and the CT 200h and GS, Lexus will attract younger buyers. Before Lexus Manila opened in 2009, Toyota conducted market research to drive a profile of the typical Lexus buyer. "They are buyers understated value and luxury," Ido says. "They used to be typically older."

Lexus is regarded with respect for its quiet elegance. There is a marked distinction of luxury here as it is not the overbearing and flashy type. Subtle it is a brand perfected by those who are confident about their achievements and names in life but feel no need to shout about it.

Although Lexus has the classiest interior and fittings among the premium brands and is now well-known globally and in the Philippines as are Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, BMW, Audi and Jaguar, Ido believes that being a younger brand has its advantages. "It forces us from the clean box of first things. It allows Lexus to evolve and increase the breadth of its range in terms of technology and innovation. This can really be seen in our leadership in hybrid technology and in our commitment to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction possible."

Another Lexus advantage is its competitive pricing on a per model basis compared to rivals in the premium segment. Ido gives as an example the P4.228-million retail price of the GS 350, a midsize luxury sport sedan.

He did not mention the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), which lowered the tariffs on 3.0-liter CBU completely built units' motor vehicles imported from Japan and thereby reduced them retail prices.

Ido recalls that Lexus Manila opened in 2009 with five models: the ES300, ES350, GS460, GS460 and LS570. Since then, the IS250, IS300 convertible, RX450h, LS600hL, CT200h and now the GS350 have been added to the line-up for a total of 12 offerings if the LFA super sports car is included. However, the LFA is not for sale.

Tetsuo Hisadome adds an average of 22 to 25 cars per month, Ido says, with the RX350 compact SUV as the best-seller and the ES350 passenger sedan as cruiser. major sales volume contributor. At present, there are no plans to open a Lexus dealership in Cebu or Davao. Toyota's Cebu-Mandaue port-

more handle Lexus sales in the Visayas-Mindanao region.

Tetsuo Hisadome is the top spot in the 2012 2.2L Reno Dependability study and its reliable pursuit of perfection, there is little reason to doubt that, starting with the new GS, the brand can pick up a new impetus for its premium customers with a more dynamic, more engaging driving experience.

Welcome to the world. . .

From page B4-1

Women want different things

It was said the hood of a Porsche engine represents a woman's mind that their G motored on rolling it in its newsroom. Although the car press gender "type" and "gender" points, the satellite feel, and user experience from different places in the psyche. The cars for men are symbols of their domain, in their cars they are the kings. For women, it's an accessory, just like a Western Union online if the customer came this way. If it matches my outfit is more of the deciding factors.

Women give more importance on how the vehicle will complement their lives and styles. Given the choice, a married man with three kids, will buy for himself a vehicle that will remind him of his younger but red days, where he had more fun which he could still feel his inner self. While his wife will choose a car that is spacious and stylish. Big enough to fit my three kids and the toys or the three girlfriends or a shopping spree, with the person but small and stylish enough to not be called a mom mobile.

Chicdrives

So why limit ourselves to the "women" point of view of purchase? Cars. Why be apologetic being a chick driver? Instead let us embrace it! If they call us crazy on the road, let us make sure that we are criticized for the good. Chicdrivers, will take the women drivers to a whole new level of fabulousness. We apologize on Dilliness. Expect to learn whether common road troubles are really breaking a nail for in Do or Dill. Expect honest reviews on the different cars and other cool products in Chic Drives Easily.

Chic Drives to great deeds, intentions that can differ our personalities and images. The Real Housewife of Metro Manila's luxury brands. The Perpetual teen dyo, before the fifties but kids and do yoga at the same time), and the Bluetooth Mr.'s spouse by choice, also, get to travel often Mrs & Chic drivers, find out what they drive and what Silk their vanity and trunk spaces.

Women are different from men drivers: men drivers are not exactly born but just different. Therefore lets adapt to the point of view on the road, that sometimes the size of the vanity mirror will clinch the deal more than the cars' horsepower.

The author is a graduate of UP Diliman, the VP for Marketing and Business Development for Eastern Shipping Lines and President of a Realtor Inc., a marketing events company. She is a member of two boys (ages 12 years old and 11 months) and a girl (7 years old) and married to thespian (actor of text and road safety advocate Al Tuazon. She is an avid traveler-reader, an aspiring triathlete, photographer, painter and cook.

Please send your comments and suggestions on avid@manilastanding.com

Beating the summer heat

From page B4-1

glass or removable sunshades. Otherwise, you will have to install a good quality film to repel solar radiation. From experience, we know that not all films are created equal; highly effective ones maintain their look as Velvet. These repel solar heat (considered as shortwave) by opposite ray off for the windshield, where a clear, reflective multichannel nano-ceramic still brings protection from heat and UV radiation to possible with high-tech film.

5. Don't leave kids, pets, and mothers-in-law in a parked car even with the windows rolled up. Temperatures can quickly become overwhelming when exposed to full solar radiation, and occupants can succumb to heatstroke. Keeping the windows rolled down will help, but to potentially less without as well due to exhaust fumes.

6. Tires are stressed during summer, esping with additional heat and degradation. Make sure they are properly inflated, as underinflated tires will build up heat and risk failure. Also, rotate tires regularly.

7. Relief in the morning. Gasoline and other fluids expand in a hot temperature, and thus fuel is wasted when filling up in the middle of the day. Refueling in dawn, and morning has through engine, as well as getting drowsy fuel, saves hundreds of a percent in the gasoline and pumpkins, every million counts.

8. Bring plenty of water. Dehydration often while driving, bring along a refillable container of water especially during long 2012. A continuity of distilled water in the break can serve a dual purpose, to drink, and to refill the radiator in case of a breakdown.

Summer is here, and we didn't need the official notice from Pagasa to know that. So have a cool body of water handy, and keep one eye on that temperature gauge.

Volvo safety technologies contribute to safer roads

TRUE TO the promise of safety, Volvo Philippines supports the Road Safety Forum organized by the Department of Transportation and Communication held last Feb. 21 at SMX Metro Pegasus Tricitas, Emap Center, Davao City.

DOTC, as part of its diversion campaign of the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2020 (PRAAP) and the United Nations declaration of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (DARS), has put together a multi-sectoral forum/workshop on road safety to strengthen the partnership between the government and the private sector in reducing road accident fatalities. The aim is to make a collective effort in implementing the Project, Activities and Programs (PAP) contained in the PRAAP and summarized under the acronym DIVERSION.

A Production Enterprise Technology Safety Driver was conducted by Volvo Philippines with Transportation Assistant Secretary Dante Lantin and Philippine National Police Chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome as part of the program of the event.

Volvo Vision 2020: A future where cars don't crash

For decades, Volvo has created cars that encourage people to enjoy life and help prevent accidents or ease accidents. Many of the most important car safety innovations come from Volvo, and hundreds of thousands of people all over the world can say they're still alive thanks to Volvo engineers. This includes the three-point safety belt invented by a Volvo engineer named Nils Bohlin in August 1959 and fitted in a Volvo PV544. It has since then been shared by Volvo to the world.

At the core of every Volvo is state-of-the-art technology that helps ensure 360 percent Volvo safety. This people-centric technology is designed to support the driver and help protect the occupants in an accident—without taking the fun out of driving. Volvo's goal is that by year 2020, no one will be injured or killed in a Volvo. That is why Volvo continues to work with governments and nongovernmental organizations around the world to get car safety on their agendas. Of course, this will not happen overnight and Volvo recognizes that it will take years of innovation and cooperation to create cars that don't crash. But a lot of technology and lessons have already risen. For example, Volvo's City Safety technology which is considered to be one of the most significant technological breakthroughs in collision avoidance.

Volvo Pedestrian Detection Technology Simulation

In support of DOTC's program, Volvo Philippines has conducted a Pedestrian Detection Crash Simulation where the latest sports sedan model, the all-new Volvo S60 T6, drives straight into a pedestrian dummy and automatically braked to avoid hitting it. This demonstration successfully proves Volvo's latest preventive safety technology can actually save lives in the event of an accident between cars and pedestrians.

Volvo also extended its dedication to safety by presenting road users through pedestrian awareness technology. Using a digital camera and radar to constantly scan the road ahead and assess you when it identifies changes in people who are or risk in front of your car, this system will employ full brakes force to stop your vehicle—if you don't react in time.

Scandinavian luxury, look and feel

Volvo Car presents the all-new Volvo V40

VOLVO PHILIPPINES shares the anticipation with Volvo Car Corp. in their unveil the much-awaited all-new Volvo V40 at the 2012 Geneva Motor Show this week.

The all-new V40 is ready to overtake the competition in the Premium Hatchback class with sharpened features and claims to offer Swiss luxury features equipped in a sleek, compact package.

"The All-New V40 is the first new model that is fully developed according to our human-centric, Designed Around You strategy. Charged with an outstanding set of high-tech features it definitely will give our competitors a headache," Stefan Jacoby, president and CEO of Volvo Car Corp. says.

The all-new Volvo V40 is a modern, expressive car with a Scandinavian luxury look and feel, a high-quality ambience and meticulous attention to detail.

The new fully graphic instrument cluster with personalized layout and information enhances the interior and accompanied driver experience.

"Thanks to input from customers all over the world our most compact 5-cargo model features an outstanding blend of design, safety and versatility. The car is loaded with features that buyers of modern luxury cars want," Jacoby explains.

Class-leading driving dynamics

The all-new V40 boasts class-leading driving dynamics thanks to focused attention to a number of vital areas. The chassis is designed to offer the agile, connected experience that sets the class driving pleasure.

The engine range spans everything from Volvo Car Corp.'s first diesel with carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions of just 94 g/km to the turbocharged T5 petrol engine with 254 hp and acceleration from 0 to 100 kph in 6.7 seconds.

All engine versions feature start-stop and brake energy regeneration, no matter whether they are fitted with a manual or automatic gearbox.

"The All-New V40 wraps you in a super-comfortable cockpit with outstanding ergonomics and technologies that make you feel cocooned, focused and relaxed. This driver-centric approach is what makes Volvo so attractive," he says.

New features

- The all-new Volvo V40 features a class-leading safety and driver support package, including Volvo Car Corp.'s groundbreaking Pedestrian Detection with Full Auto Brake and Collision Warning functions.
- Among the new features are a world-first pedestrian airbag, Lane Keeping Aid with hapti- auto steering, and an ingenious Park Assist Pilot that makes parallel parking easy.
- The City Safety low-speed collision avoidance system has been further developed and it now operates at speeds up to 50 kph.

"The All-New V40 is the most intelligent and safe Volvo model so far. All its features are designed around the driver, helping him or her stay alert and well informed to avoid collisions and dangerous situations," says Håkan Abrahamsson, vehicle line director C Cars & V40 vehicle program manager.

He adds: "With this class-leading safety package, including enhanced Focus on pedestrian protection, the all-new V40 aims be a full class rating in the new, sharpened 2012 Euro NCAP safety tests."

Sales target

Volvo Car Corp. expects to sell 90,000 units per year of the All-New Volvo V40. A massive 85 percent of the total volume will go to European customers.

The car will be revealed at a press conference at the Geneva Motor Show in March 2012. Production of the all-new Volvo V40 starts in May 2012. The car will be built in Volvo Car Corp.'s plant in Ghent, Belgium.

"The All-New V40 makes an instant impression with a dynamic design that stands out from the crowd. And what you see is what you get. The car boasts sharpened features and characteristics from larger Volvos—wrapped in a sleek, compact package. The car also has so many new features that it has an exceptional 'density'. It has pretty much everything," Håkan Abrahamsson says.

Welcome to the world of chic drivers!

By Jeannee Ignacio Tuason

Who only because March is Women's Month, we can proudly and honestly say that there is always room for ladies in the action. One writer and another columnist after Inquirer Motoring makes way for another contributor who is no newbie on the world of motoring. Not just by affinity or profession but also for passion (lol).

I HAVE lived 24/7 with a champion racecar driver for about 13 years now. I met him when I was a college intern, barely out of my diapers, typical alpha female, shrinking out of the horror cue in school. I would pick up Hiroshi at VS night in front of the University of the Philippines Arts and Sciences Building. It was here that most of his Ugoboss schoolmates and our midnight gear ride often becomes the object of their chaste and repressed pleads for a quick spin. In their book, I was the cool, receiving and an achievement girl until I met his chaste self.

My racecar driver basically educated the way I drive to the point that he would almost say I didn't drive bad... typical female driver. So to shake society's distrust and sometimes backseat driving, I relegated myself to being the passenger. I would drive no-one but in order to conceal the shrinking shame I'm told say, "I don't really like how he drives eh." Or "you don't really like the way I drive" which comes from me driving submissive.

In reality, I had a privilege of shining cars not worst really see on the road. I made for male car clients in Hay Barter Racing in California, driving the historic Jaguar Iron Coalscorer Rat out in several great. I have driven and rode him, training cars, full-competence Nascars, stock cars, and dragsters. I learned how to lap and downshift. I have a fair understanding of engine displacement and can set up, all because of racing a racing school. But I wouldn't be caught dead talking about cars and mags or exhausts like the typical car ers. Instead, "But the car article I wrote are highlighted by the hardcore car-nuts-make-it-rap-before-adult-would-get-hands-of-convertibles while you enjoy the drive-driving pleasure the supreme engine and handling the vehicle provided. I have how to drive, just in a different way. I drive like a chick... but the best time I checked... Hell, I can in-block.

Drive like a girl...fabulously

chic driven

Men vs women

The rise of feminism in the 60's called for equality for both genders. The pound the drum for women to do as they please and dare to get in touch with their feminine side. But are equality does not mean we are the same. Sometimes you look at a man and women will say always be different. So why would I need to take an men's point of view on things. Why would women be subjected to parameters made to judge men?

Who is really better?

I asked the internet driver Bobby and started on our facebook page: "What makes the stereotypical boys female drivers?" All sorts of answers came up such as "women drivers are slow," "they need look in the mirrors," "they no applied women-men" but in reality some male drivers have this issues as well. Men judge female drivers that are very reactionary to slow or road fatalities and the aggressive ones, as jumps and no respect of road rules. So it's not a one-sided opinion.

In the end o-old, the question "who is better than who" depend on the drivers and point of view taken. Sometimes competitions have made it windy on the gender lin-ine.

According to Insurance.com, men are more aggressive and are riskier drivers than female. They are more likely to be cited for traffic violations and get into an accident. MSNBC reported that according to Traffic Stats, a road risk study the Carnegie Mellon did for the Allstate insurance corporation, male drivers have a 77 percent higher risk of dying in a car accident than women, based on miles driven. Blame it on the testosterone rues, scientifically you can!

But on the flip side, according to Tom Vanderbilt, the author of Traffic, women I suppose that needs have the technical superiority, on a clear environment test, cars were able to park vehicles quickly and accurately. On another study in the UK, young drivers that take the boards on part of the driving test, male drivers actually outperformed the female drivers.

Both genders do have their pros and cons. The technical advantage of the driving male is balanced out by their appearances and riskier driving (in short, they do stupid things) the lack of appearances and driver skill (which is said to be caused by the changing sweetsport) is countered by the environment. Studies further suggest that women have more random hand on-slips or lapses, men's crashes are due to driving violations that tend to be more deliberate and ride-speeding, non-use belt-use and drinking.

E-xecutive E-xpress

The Mercedes-Benz E300 looks more modern, more edgy, in a good way

BEHIND the wheel. The new E-Class feels bolder, sharper to drive than its predecessors.

THE ORIGINAL question: Does it also wear E-Class luxury?

By Boochi Santos

THE MERCEDES-BENZ E-Class, particularly the W123 and W124 chassis, helped define a generation of motoring enthusiasts. Back in the day, towards the end of the manual law years and right after the 86, power hit and suspension all rode to Mercedes Benzes. BMWs strugged with limited parts and servicing, Audis was hardly in the people's consciousness, and the only thing better than a Benz, was a Rolls Royce which was too expensive to acquire.

A Benz feels Benz and even to this day exudes an image of old-tech, old money. Strange were built properly back then, by engineers, and not by brain-washers. As further proof, look at the number of old Benzes still being used today as daily drivers and as a whole lot really.

The introduction of the W210 and W211 E-Classes really killed Mercedes Benz's reputation (and reliability) when accounting and finance guys, not engineers, or at least car guys started wielding more influence on how a Benz should be built, which heralded a new era, corporate good, for the lack of a better name.

I remember driving a W210 E55 AMG in light traffic and the electronically powered seats went crazy and the seat started pushing me all the way backward, with the steering wheel moving all the way down and forward as well to squash little old me, a mere straight out of the classic car home of Ilin "Chrissine" by Stephen King and directed by John Carpenter were the car was a blood-hungry killer. Mercedes Benz's J.D Powers Survey Rating fell from the top-spot. Looking back, a lot of first generation technology was introduced in these cars, pleading a crucial role to its reliability or lack thereof. Had Ilsa kept it simpler back then, it would not have felt like a prop or Benz if it were not a reckless legend in 2009, packed with new features, gadgets and the occasional gimmicks.

Paul Bernard, said Benz has a new S-Class, codenamed W221 body. The ninth generation that started way back in 1951. Introduced in 2009, the W212 isn't exactly new but it's only lately that more and more of those cars have started showing up on our roads.

Behind the wheel, the new E-Class feels bolder, sharper to drive than its predecessors. The steering feel is still somewhat dull, but more accurate, less woolly. The brakes and throttle pedals are firm but somewhat sturdy, and require a lot of getting used to if you want both swift and smooth progress. The ones rarely felt is now replaced with a firmer one that gives more feel and feedback. No electronic gremlins on this baby so far, but the interior doesn't feel as spartan as its key German rivals. The leather interior isn't as soft and supple, a little of the plastics feel a bit like Chinese made now, but otherwise, the simplified dash architecture, with far less knobs and buttons does make the Benz more luxurious and classy, regaining some of the sparkle it once had. The seats are comfortable and supportive enough but the lack of softer leather really isn't as satisfying to feel against your backside on long hours behind the wheel.

The passenger seat of choice is a 3.0-litre V6 engine that produces 231 hp and 500 Nm of torque. Plenty of torque, sending power to the rear wheels through Mercedes Benz's 7G-Tronic 7-speed automatic transmission. It's not exactly a project Subie anymore, but decent for most people, more so if you sit at the back and relegate driving duties to the chauffeur.

Safety of course is impressive, with Mercedes-Benz's PRE-SAFE technology that rolls up the sport windows, primes the brakes to get good brake fluid pressure, closes the moonroof and straightens out your seats and tightens the seatbelts if it detects an accident about to happen, by sensing increased interest or braking grinding, combined with hard and constant brake pedal application. ADS-ESC brakes are standard, as well as multiple airbags, with curtain airbags and side-seat airbags for good measure.

The crucial question then is a luxury? I believe so. In the looks department, it looks more modern, more edgy, in a good way. It still has that elegant air about it. If the older Benzes were iconic, double-breasted suits with gold buttons, the new one is a simpler, set skin fitting A-luxury suit that looks aggressive, feels less soul but like your old man's Benz.

Mercedes-Benz has been touted as much driving down fuel consumption and the 7G-Tronic's many gears means the E-Class has both better acceleration in city yet still delivering near galactic legs for sustained high-speed highway runs, the engine. Cutting area below 5,000 revs with the gearbox nudging between 120 125 kph in seventh gear. Floor it, and you'll be pleasantly surprised that there's more to be had than the modest 231 hp and 500 NM of torque on paper.

The look and is roomier than before, but still tight compared to an Audi A6 or a BMW 5 Series, but improved nonetheless.

Sadly, the E300 came with smallish 16-inch wheels. That said, bigger 18 or even 19-inch wheels will help improve the intimidation factor, probably help justify the five star better.

The E-Class is definitely worth looking into. But please, get rid of that fake wood trim. The E350 at least, or the E63 if you can afford it. If not, the previous-engined E220 Blue Efficiency are better options because more turbocharged engines, seemingly standard for executive sedans, offers surprisingly more punch thanks to turbocharging. The diesels also look more attractive precisely because they offer more low-end grunt rather than high-end wing, find rich the big alloy wheels option.

The beginning of hairloss is the end of youth.

Even if you're only in your 20's, 30's or 40's – it doesn't matter – without a full head of hair, you'll look and feel older. It can take a major hit on your confidence and self-esteem. Don't allow hairloss to take over your life. At Svenson, you get to save your hair and make it thicker, stronger and healthier for good. Senator Tito Sotto, Juce Marquez and Allan Caidic are proof that hairloss can be beaten if you go to the right place – Svenson. With Svenson's Anti-Hairloss Programs, you can finally end your hairloss and the worries, frustrations and embarrassment that go with it.

Senator Tito Sotto: "It's important for men to take care of the way they look. When my wife suggested that I was losing hair, I addressed the problem immediately. Hairloss can diminish a man's confidence and self-esteem. I decided to seek professional help from Svenson. I am impressed with the results. After six months of treatments my hair has grown back thicker and fuller. Svenson is really effective and the treatments are quick and easy. When suffering from hairloss you should not give up. Stay strong and give Svenson a try. Why wait for loss of hair when you have Svenson to maintain your hair's rejuvenation and thickness." **Joey Marquez:** "For me, the lesser your hair... the older you look. Hairloss doesn't just affect a man's confidence, it also affects your self-esteem. I may be known as a humorous guy, but when I was struggling with my bald spot, I was on an all-time low. I look in the bald spot and laughed with people, but I seriously distressed my confidence. Hair keeps you looking young, so when I started to lose mine, it affected my appeal to women as well! It's a good thing I went to Svenson just in time. After a few months of treatments, I already see visible results. My friends thought it wasn't real hair at first, but I let them touch it just to prove it's my natural hair! Having thicker and fuller hair set me back 20 years. Having hair adds to your sex appeal. Nasa Fvr back to my old appearing self!, thanks to Svenson!"* **Allan Caidic:** "I noticed my thinning crown area when I was watching my game tapes. The camera shoots from behind the coaches' bench so you could really see the visibility spot. It made me feel very self-conscious. I were cops most of the time to hide it. I wasn't sold on the idea of using over-the-counter products to solve my hairloss. I wanted professional help so I went to Svenson. In the 4 months, I saw noticeable improvements in my hair. I'm very happy with the final and effective results. People tell me that my hair's thicker and the thinning spot is gone. I'm confident now. No more hairloss worries, getting my Svenson!"

End your hairloss worries today! Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247) / 214-0815 (Cebu) to schedule your free hair and scalp analysis!

Nissan-Pilipinas by UMC brings internet to the streets

THE INCREASING need of Pilipinos to be constantly connected to the Internet has prompted companies like Universal Motors Corp. (the official automobile and distributor of the Nissan Urvan, Navara, Murano and Patrol) to make the Internet even more accessible by taking it **to the streets...literally.**

"UMC has always taken pride in being the first to uncover the needs of Pilipinos **automobile ventures...We were** the first to introduce Diesel **engines in the Philippines**, and now we are going to be **one of the first in the country** to introduce Wi-Fi connectivity for all our new passenger and commercial vans with our **Nissan Blackhawk** promo," Henceritas Limjap, **AVP for marketing and sales** of Universal Motors Corp, says.

According to Limjap, Urvans purchased from Feb. 6, 2012 to March 31, 2012, will be fitted with a built in Wi-Fi router plus one headrest monitors with a DVD player.

"The possibilities of this offering are endless—imagine, commuting to work in an Urvan shuttle which has Wi-Fi...you and your co-passengers may have already finished work before stepping in the office, for students stuck in traffic, they can do homework and conduct research on the road with just one broadband click," Limjap adds.

Using the Wi-Fi router is simple; just plug in a compatible USB broadband stick to the on-board Wi-Fi router and all the passengers in the vehicle enjoy instant Wi-Fi connectivity.

"The is more than just a promotional gimmick, we believe that it's going to be a positive influence in the daily lives of Filipinos," Limjap adds.

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Anuva gains ground with unique offer

FROM right, Sunland CFO JP Reyes, Sunland VP Farah Denise Cuevas, Sunland VP Justine Anne Mercado, architect Brian Mangio (masterplanner), architect Antonio Villareal Jr., architect Kenneth Serapi, architect Rusty Llandro III, architect Bernard Tesio.

By Raquel Cuevas

VERTICAL housing developments such as mid- to high-rise condominiums may be booming as the season with new projects practically sprouting from every corner, but SOC Land remains optimistic that its pilot development in Sucat, Parañaque, will remain as competitive as the rest of them.

Anuva is a residential project that offers "extraordinary value" in terms of features and amenities but at a price that won't break the customer's budget, says SOC Land chief executive officer John Reyes.

The new residential haven boasts of 80 percent open space and low density floor areas, features that set the project apart from similar developments by established real estate companies, says Reyes. He emphasizes the project's focus is to provide residents with open green living spaces and eco-friendly environment.

Anuva got its name from a Russian term that means 'new beginning'

Getting a unit at Anuva also provides options for upgrade, with the unit becoming part of the whole mortgage loan, and thus allowing the buyer easy financial terms in availing a unit that he or she wants to customize.

"With Anuva, we want to offer the customers something different and really based on what they want rather than on what is profitable for the company," says Reyes.

Slated for 2014, Anuva is already 30 percent complete. Reyes says the market reception for SOC Land's first housing project has been very positive with clients from Singapore and abroad already availing units. "Singapore nationals buying into Anuva property really surprised us," says Reyes.

Anuva is the maiden project of SOC Land, a real estate company owned by the Puyat-Reyes group, which has solid credentials in the construction materials industry, oil exploration, among others.

Anuva, which comprises of eight towers built in four tandem buildings, sits on a 2.4-hectare property. The generous allocation of 80 percent open space will be designed to accommodate a resort-type, lazy river that runs across the entire development, jogging paths, corner playgrounds, and a yoga deck.

Units offered in Anuva, ranging from studio, one bedroom, to two bedroom units, are designed to feature space-saving interior space as well as allowing natural lighting and cross-ventilation. Each unit also features a laundry area, even for a 22 square meter-studio unit.

"The living quarters are unlike the narrow, rectangular configuration found in other condo developments, which inhibit mobility and severely limit practical planning and creative use of space. The spacious units found in Anuva provide better options for optimizing interior space, while encouraging cross-ventilation and natural lighting, whether one chooses a studio, a one- or two-bedroom unit.

The master planned community also addresses the contemporary needs of families and individuals for accessibility. It is strategically located just a kilometer off the C5 interchange and a few minutes away from Makati. Anuva is also near embassies of institutions like San Beda College Alabang, Alabang School, and Westgate commercial complexes such as Festival Mall and Alabang Town Center, business districts in Muntinlupa, hospitals, and the three international as well as domestic airports.

The development got its name from a Russian term that means "new beginning," and the adoption of the name comes with a

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SOC LAND
Change the way you dream

Prevent fires this month

By Charles E. Baker

CONSIDERING that a total of 8,824 fires were recorded last year, the Bureau of Fire Protection is intensifying its campaign this March to make the Fire Prevention Month, a wake-up call for everybody.

Considering also that a home is one of the most important investments that a family will make, the Bureau's "Be Mobile, Mobilize, or Immigrate: Target-Opting Setup by Mitsuyuri" should serve as a reminder for everyone in his own vigilance while at home.

The best defense is prevention so here are some few useful tips to eliminate unnecessary loss of life and property.

1 USE A BATTERY-OPERATED LIGHT SOURCE. As much as possible, avoid using candles or sticks using lamps as these two have been attributed as among the leading causes of fires in the country. In most cases, the fire started because the candle is too close to some combustible material like curtains or paper products.

2 NEVER LET CHILDREN PLAY WITH MATCHES, LIGHTERS OR CANDLES. Not only are these tools dire in danger of suffering from burn-related injuries, they could also cause fire that can get the whole house.

Don't just confiscate, teach them why they should avoid playing with these items.

Better yet, teach children by example by letting them see you being sensible and careful about cooking, using candles and other potential fire risks.

Just to be safe, keep matches, lighters and candles in a place where children can't see or reach them.

3 NEVER LEAVE YOUR COOKING UNATTENDED. Another cause of home fires is while cooking exceptionally when the one doing it suddenly gets distracted by others or chores.

One way of preventing this is to give anything that's on top of the stove your undivided attention. If you have to leave the kitchen, turn the burner off before you answer the phone or go to the bathroom.

4 NEVER KEEP AN LPG TANK IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE. While cases of exploding tanks are rare, it is still proper to place an LPG tank in a well-ventilated area. This practice is important considering LPG is heavier than air and tend to spread along the ground when it leaks (as would not the stable fog of gas).

If you smell LPG in an enclosed space, immediately extinguish all flames (even cigarettes) if possible open windows. Do not use electrical switches and report the incident to proper authorities.

5 UNPLUG APPLIANCES WHEN NOT IN USE. Yes, kitchen appliances like microwaves, rice cookers, breadmakers, and coffee pots only use less than 5 Watts—but there's no reason to leave them plugged in when you don't have to. This practice not only saves money but also prevents cases of overheating.

Unusual smells and sparks are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off. Make sure these are repaired if not replaced.

6 REGULARLY CHECK ELECTRICAL WIRINGS AT HOME. Never overload electrical outlets or wires when done, they do happen and mixing check up to repairs that could be a source of dangerous short circuits and sparks.

7 CREATE YOUR OWN VERSION OF FIRE DRILLS AT HOME. It is important to inform all members of the household on what tools if there's a fire. This is important especially for children as they need to be touched on how to react even if there are no adults around to tell them what tools if a fire happens.

8 KNOW YOUR ESCAPE ROUTES. Plan an escape route and make sure that every member of the household is familiar with it, especially the children. Allow children to master fire-escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping.

The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children these will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill.

If your home has more than one level, every family member must be trained on how to escape from the upper floors.

Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-up.

After exit, make sure to store the ladder near the upper floor window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.

9 SET AN OUTSIDE MEETING PLACE. Choose an outside meeting place—a plaza, neighbor's house, even a park—which should be a safe distance from your house and where everyone can meet after escaping.

Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.

10 GIVE EACH FAMILY MEMBER AN ASSIGNMENT. If there are infants, elder adults, family members with mobility limitations or pets, make sure that someone is assigned to assist these individuals during the fire drill and in the event of an emergency.

Assign a backup person too, because she not designated is not home during the emergency.

Anuva gains ground...

From page B1

ANUVA executives led by Reyes (fourth from left) answer queries in a press conference.

good reason. Buyers says many developers today promise about dance of amenities but at a high cost, or affordable deals that withhold on quality.

"But not Anuva," he says, "as it offers 80 percent open space, prime location, low-density living, anti-features, and gives points that outshine its competition. The new community by SOC Land is serious about making an indelible, positive mark in the local residential property industry."

200 HOUSES FOR SENDONG VICTIMS

Benjaya Philippines, a local unit of Malaysian conglomerate Benjaya Group, has donated 200 houses to the victims of Typhoon "Sendong" in Cagayan de Oro. The city government led by Mayor Vicente Emano (right), in turn, granted, provided the land. Gawad Kalinga will build the houses. The Benjaya GK Village broke ground last month and should be completed by May 2012. Benjaya Group chair, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Vincent Tan Chee Yioun, doubted that houses were what the victims needed most to return to normal life sooner. Also in photo are Benjaya Philippines officials (from left) lawyer Jun Bernas, Tan Bing Hwa, country manager Paul Tee and GK executive director Loh Ogsimora.

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A different adventure at Subic Holiday Villas

FROM MNM Town pollution and the noisy city life, Subic Holiday Villas is the ideal place to stay in while you're in Subic.

Situated in Jack's promontory near the highway, you'll instantly feel you're in a "bird's nest" so close to nature.

The homey ambiances of the hotel makes guests feel they're living in a villa instead of a high-rise building. There is a large courtyard which serves as lounging, walking lawn and resulting the pure scent of nature in a well planned environment.

For couples wanting some alone time, get the Studio Deluxe Room accommodations that's perfect for two individuals.

Enjoy spacious rooms, tastefully designed with the following amenities—cable TV, bath tub and shower, personal refrigerators, microwave oven and more.

Two-bedroom suite

Families or groups of up to four persons will find the two-bedroom suite just perfect for their needs. Breakfast and dinner are already complimentary.

Subic offers a wide range of fun activities for its visitors.

Dressed you're in sportswear and glide like a bird at the Skyrider Zip Adventure, interact with wild animals at Zambo Safari while Ocean Adventure allows you to get close with gentle creatures of the sea.

Truly your stay and vacation at Subic Holiday Villas will leave you good memories to bring back home.

Discover all that Subic Bay has to offer with Subic Holiday Villas.

All 60 guestrooms at the hotel provide all the comforts and conveniences guests would expect in a hotel.

Each guest room is tastefully appointed with non-smoking rooms, air-conditioning, desk, television, and bathroom.

The Subic Bay accommodation features on site facilities such as shops, casino, elevator, coffee shop, laundry services/dry cleaning, meeting facilities, restaurant, and room service.

To unwind, guests can enjoy the leisure facilities provided on the hotel's property, including pool (kids), gym, outdoor pool, and garden.

With elegant facilities and hospitality guests at this hotel will surely have an impressive stay.

Royale Homes unveils Top Producers for 2011

From left: Ms. Caroline A. Sales, EVP for Sales, Marketing & Training; Mabelle P. Robles, President; Ms. Melinda A. Hernandez, EVP for Finance and Administration.

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation (RHMC) honors its outstanding Sales Force for the year 2011 in the 17th Annual Awards and Producers' Assembly on March 7, 2012 at the La Breza Hotel in Quezon City.

"The company proudly recognizes its Top Producers and loyal Sales Force for their enduring commitment and valuable contributions as our partners in fulfilling our company vision to provide the finest real estate investments to the Filipinos here and abroad," RHMC President Mathile P. Robles said.

With over a decade of experience in real estate marketing, Royale Homes has thrived over stiff competition and shaped the industry by delivering the best priced and most functional real estate investments in the market. Royale Homes has grown to become one the most steadfast players in the industry. Such milestone is a journey of tremendous hard work, dedication and trust with the Sales Force.

The successful launch of Sta. Lucia Land, Inc.'s very first 5-tower, mixed-used condominium that shall soon rise in the heart of Metro East—the Sta. Lucia Residences in 2011 implies another bold but rewarding step for Royale Homes and its dynamic Sales Force in bringing valuable investment opportunities to the market.

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Serving beyond its walls

By Charlie E. Bulan

THOSE looking for an exclusive, affordable yet stylish township in Quezon City would find Phinma Properties' Flora Vista an ideal choice.

Located in Peanock Street in Commonwealth avenue, Quezon City (near Fairview General Hospital) this development boasts tandem row/duplex-style architecture and top-notch amenities – in the Clubhouse, playground and Fitness Deck – that lessee-residents would find too sweet to go out more often.

But more than owning a well-appointing community, Phinma Properties believed Flora Vista could also become a responsible neighbor, owing for the families living beyond its walls.

Indeed, while Phinma Properties has endeared itself to every family and individual owning or living in a more desirable community, the company also decided to sponsor one small yet very significant project—build the St. Mario Engrande de Jesus Early Learning Center located just behind its perimeter fencing.

"We are not only a construction and land development company. Phinma Properties also play a competent role in whatever community it will rise, offering worthwhile projects to the community," said Willie Uy, president and CEO of Phinma Property Holdings Corp.

The school is for toddlers preparing themselves to enter Grade 1 the following year.

The modestly sized, one-room school house was built, thanks to Bagong Buhay, Phinma Properties' corporate responsibility program.

Providential

"I guess it was providential that Flora Vista was conceived and built in this location. Had it not be the fact that Flora Vista was built here, Ba. Maria Engrande de Jesus Early Learning Center will probably not be conceived," believed Uy.

He related that while Flora Vista is being built, Phinma Properties learned of several Grade 1 pupils in the nearby community who needed coaching to enhance their academic qualification as recommended by Bagong, a congressional organization operating in the area.

"Bagong has been conducting English literacy program—at Peacock Street where Flora Vista is located—wherein select pupils (between 5- and 6-years old who needed coaching so they would qualify for Grade 1 the following year," related Ba. Rosario Doris Jimenez-Bacudio, M.Ed of 80 pupils in the area has qualified for the program.

Partnership forged

It was at this point that Bagong president Maria Isa Roberto together with her group composed of the NGO's executive director, Juanito B. Plilo, and Area Development manager, Isadora B. Linga, scheduled a meeting with Phinma Vista officers in order to forge a partnership.

The project led to the building of a small school for the purpose of such academic preparation.

It was at this point that Phinma Properties, through its philanthropic arm, Phinma Foundation Inc. decided to finance the building of a modest one-classroom kindergarten school just beside Flora Vista.

Through the Bagong Buhay program, Phinma Properties recycled construction materials it used in Flora Vista as well as in other projects and used paints donated by the Ic. Paint (Boysen) Philippines Inc.

Hora network

For the construction, volunteers came from Phinma's Helpful Employees Responsible for Others or Hora network composed of volunteers from Phinma Properties, its associate and/or Sister-Co's, Flora Vista operations department as well as skilled workers coming from the Upper Bicutan community.

Marijoss Fonceblanco-Bernardo heads for the school head nun.

By January 2012, the school named after the founder of the Religious of the Assumption was finally finished and is now ready to welcome its first batch of young children.

June classes

With classes starting this June, the learning school will offer Early Childcare and Development classes that would enable to prepare pupils to excel in Grade 1 the following year.

A complementary feeding program will also be undertaken in to improve overall performance of the pupils.

"This is just one of the programs that have been inspired by the vision of our founder, Ambassador Ramon del Rosario Jr. We envisioned that wherever our company will operate, it must ensure that the communities around it will also improve," Uy said.

Phinma Properties has become an industry innovator for introducing a building system that allows a five-story walk-up building to be completed in six-to-eight months—with one floor being finished every 17 hours.

Since 1987, Phinma Properties has been known to generate valuable mid-range housing developments that could be had through affordable financing schemes and whose units could be turned over more quicker to its buyers.

ST. MARIE Eugenie de Jesus Early Learning Center was built just behind the perimeter wall at Flora Vista.

VOLUNTEERS and representatives of the Bagong Buhay, Hora Network and Kapitbay pose before their newly finished project.

Vivaldi: Redefining high-rise lifestyle

THE MASTERS should be proud of this latest landmark set to rise at the corner of the metro. Like a visually-striking portrait, it is set to mesmerize through inspired architecture that is both modern yet timeless; like an impeccable sculpture, it exudes a gorgeous feature set of finishing, fixtures, and detailed accents; and like a classical sonata, it is bound to leave a lasting impression that is in tune with the dreams and aspirations of a captive market.

The project is aptly named "Vivaldi" a high-rise residential structure that is the first in a series of planned developments by Filinvest.

Vivaldi honors the name-endearing attributes of its progenitor, the great Italian Baroque composer Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (1678-1741). Similar to the virtuoso, Vivaldi Residences offers variety, excitement, subtle innovation, and artistry translated into tangible and current advantages that its target market of buyers are sure to appreciate.

Set to rise on a very prime property along Edsa-Cubao, Quezon City, prestige and exclusivity are further qualities to be associated with the project. Its central location, among other enticing propositions, is for owners to effortlessly hop on to the metro's busiest address in the middle of the city with condo units that are competitively priced and quality-crafted.

Awesome location

Living at the center of everything definitely has its perks, and for future residents of Vivaldi, this benefit means generous access to both public and private transportation.

Proposed bridgeways will be built to link the building to not just one, but two railway stations: the MRT and LRT.

This is apart from the various transport terminals around the vicinity—making the site accessible to virtually anywhere around and even beyond the greater metro.

This formerly what an upwardly mobile, young professional dreams of in his/her home, and at Vivaldi, it's in real account be.

The vibrant district of Cubao likewise presents a variety of business, leisure, institutional, and recreational destinations in prominent distances.

Shopping malls and even three-set markets are just a few steps away from the compound. This means no more working up-cuts early just to avoid the traffic rush and reach the office on time. And yes, those spare moments can instead be devoted to what matters most—being with family, friends, and loved ones.

Euro-chic theme

The project will be distinguished through its modern European theme to be implemented across the condominium complex. Streamlined and neat, polished and contemporary with a modern twist. Vivaldi is expected to literally tower over the cityscape and even the competition.

The grand lobby will welcome visitors and present a glimpse of luxury high-rise living.

As they further enter the elevators and electric-lifts from one area to the next, they are sure to be awed by the elegantly designed amenities, including an Amenity Deck that resort's a breath-taking view of the metropolis. There is also a jogging deck with mini park, children's playground, function and barbecue area, viewing deck and picnic areas to temper the senses of an urban dweller, outdoor function areas, fitness gym, and benches to open spaces for socially-needed R&R requirements of residents.

There is even a uniquely designed cantilevered lovebanging) pool, where residents can imbibe the feel of luxury, whenever they wish.

The glass-encased amenity is propped on one side of the building and offers the ultimate view of the city below while residents enjoy their sweet time while lounging in the pool.

As a complementary feature in the invigorating amenities, Vivaldi Residences further ups the notch as the first "Green Building-compliant" structure in the city.

This will make the development a virtual oasis in the middle of the urban jungle that is dedicated to the comfort of residents while doing its share for the promotion of environmental consciousness.

Features fit for royalty

Other building features are just as European-ish, taking into account the mood and wants of prospective residents who value their investment.

Wi-Fi connection will be installed on all floors for the sparingly mobile and highly-connected dwellers. Units will also offer cable connection and a master antenna TV system for unsuitable TV subscribers.

Ample parking spaces are provided for the residents and roadside guests, both for vehicles and even motorcycles.

Separate high-speed elevators will service unit owners and guests while fire exit stairs with centralized fire alarm and smoke detection systems are in place to give residents peace of mind. Security is assured through CCTVs in all elevators and lobbies as well as 24-hour building security. There is even emergency power for commercial and residential units as well as for common area equipment and facilities.

Other household requirements are addressed through professional building maintenance and janitorial services, centralized garbage chute system, laundry cleaning and food services (optional) to be provided by the condotel operator.

Exciting unit mix

Available at Vivaldi Residences will be an effective mix of studio, 1-bedroom unit, and 2-bedroom units, catering to the various lifestyle needs of home buyers.

Young professionals as well as entrepreneurs call Vivaldi their half-way home through the studio or 1-bedroom unit, ranging in size from 37.61 to 208.62 sqm. Starting families with young kids can meanwhile have a home-away-from-home at the 2-bedroom unit, with a generous size of 62.32 sqm. All units are fitted or move-in ready, installed with quality finishes and utility features for hassle-free at-home living.

Only 24 units will be assigned per floor so the project's low density living proposition is fulfilling to such ideal ambiance, making the detail will be the very competitive pricing for the units at Vivaldi, that one even be arranged at equally affordable financing schemes that are the best value in the city.

Aside from the residential units, the mixed-use building will also accommodate retail, office, and commercial spaces. There will likewise be allotted floors for a serviced condotel—an excellent investment opportunity for enterprising lessors.

Global by design

Vivaldi Residences is the first residential project of Filsyn Towers International Inc.—a maverick player in the property sector whose mission is to create global-standard, high-quality real estate projects that will enable more Filipinos to enjoy and experience world-class contemporary living.

And what an impressive start it would be.

A perfect home-away-from-home residential condominium that offers unparalleled convenience of living next to everything, Vivaldi is dubbed as one of the tallest structures in the vibrant neighborhood.

The new benchmark in high-rise living is set to be set by Vivaldi. Residence is sure to be unparalleled.

Color Theme: Steven San Jose

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For cleaner air, less stress at home or at work–indoor plants

By Seraphin S. Manila
Contributor

MAKE YOUR home healthy, eco-friendly and livable with indoor gardening.

Another [illegible] of [illegible] is that indoor plants can improve air pollution, says important to [illegible] stress and boost creativity.

FOR [illegible], C2

Rina Albert-Llamas mines motherhood

Top stationery designer gets design inspirations from her sons–be it trucks or cars

STORY ON PAGE C2

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How Dawn is wrinkle-free & youthful at 43

You see her every night on prime time television these days. Who can possibly deny that at 43, Dawn Zulueta remains to be one of the country's most beautiful faces? How does she manage to look fresh-faced, smooth-skinned and beautiful even at 43?

Dawn Zulueta swears by ReFirme.

What Dawn says about ReFirme.

"I don't look my age! I get that a lot from people. Everyone's here telling me that my skin has improved – and we all know elasticity is something that diminishes as we age! But thanks to ReFirme, my skin is even firmer now compared to how it was 5-6 years ago. My facial has improved, lines have diminished. I also noticed that the skin on my cheek area – an area that really starts to sag in time – looks tighter. It holds up better now, even on days when I'm tired! ReFirme is so impressive!"

What is ReFirme?

ReFirme is the latest non-invasive treatment that targets loose, sagging skin. An age reversal breakthrough, it employs electro-optical synergy (ELOS) technology, wherein the combination of light and radio frequency stimulates the skin's natural production of collagen and elastin.

What results can one expect from ReFirme?

ReFirme helps visibly diminish wrinkles and creases, revive skin's luster and youthful texture, and refine prominent pores and uneven skin tone. All it takes is a quick 25 minutes to define contours and make skin smoother, firmer, more supple, the overall look more youthful.

Bringing back the 'glory days' of Philippine design

This year's Manila FAME aims to reestablish the country as the region's design center—with some mentoring from the likes of Natori and Cobonpue

NATORI joins a fashion parade by Cleatus.

By Alex Y. Vergara

AFTER CONVINCING three of the country's biggest sourcing events to band together and hold their respective shows under one roof last year, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) plans to take Manila FAME, its featured design and lifestyle fair by the world market, "to the next level."

This time, Manila FAME aims to guide seasoned exhibitors in their explorations of untested possibilities in furniture design. At the same time, it wants to boost the chances of those in the garments business to sell their products, consisting mainly of clothes and accessories, abroad, by focusing on the high-end buyers segment.

Manila-based furniture from Manila Kow, Cebu SEED and Silporo Cebu will gather in the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City from March 14-17 to welcome foreign and local buyers.

A fashion show, "Manila Wear," will feature clothes and accessories of 21 of the country's leading designers on opening night. Consisting of five pieces per designer, the "tropical-noir" collection would focus on creative uses of indigenous materials mixed with imported fabrics and components for the world market.

Apart from the contributions of Hanggo Lo Maldo, Citem executive director Rosvi Guerra was joined by New York-based Filipino fashion designer Josie Natori, Isaac Santos and JC Buenaflo, as well as leading furniture designers Benji Layug and Kenneth Cobonpue.

Apart from showcasing some of their products in the exhibit, the designers will also act as advisers to fellow exhibitors. Natori and Cobonpue manufacture their own products.

CITEM executive director Rosvi Guerra (second from left) with fashion designers JC Buenaflo, Josie Natori and Isaac Santos, and furniture designers Benji Layug and Kenneth Cobonpue

Marching orders

"My marching orders from (Department of Trade and Industry) Secretary Gregory Ong was last year was to unify the design industry," said Guerra. "Now our objective is to bring little designs into parts to big shops, but in the next level. With (ASEAN) competitors from China and our southeast Asian neighbors, we have to produce world-class products that are uniquely Filipino."

Since last year's consolidation, Manila FAME saw a 97-percent increase in buyer attendance and a 64-percent increase in export sales. This year is only the beginning, added Guerra, but it marks the start of the Philippines' bid "to reclaim the title as the region's design center."

As founding member of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP) in 1988, Natori has devoted to no more than piano designers. In it is fashion or furniture, Manila is still abroad. "Our latest development, the call it, brings the country closer to achieving that goal.

"I can see it coming because together we can do things. One from last come, and what differentiates and gives us an advantage from the rest is our indigenous heritage," said Natori.

Part of her dream is to make "Manila Wear" a brand in itself, a symbol of excellence. If not well, Fair assures buyers of quality, consistency, and fresh designs. Natori wants to replicate for the fashion industry the sudden successes experienced by the furniture industry, led by such names as Layug and Cobonpue.

Decimated

Even the absence of a textile industry a major factor that has hampered Philippine fashion from taking off globally, Isaac championed Guerra and company's quest.

"The country's garments industry was decimated by the quota system," said Guerra. "To further complicate the situation, we no longer have a textile industry."

But the country still has a considerable source of indigenous materials from traditional weavers in the provinces. Guerra hopes to match these handwoven materials with imported mass-produced materials to produce garments that are uniquely Filipino.

"We still have to adjust to design," said Natori. "The challenge now is to find the Filipino soul and bring it out."

Manalo, FDCP president, believes that, provoking global trends favor handwoven fabrics like abaca, sinamay and abaca, what's the country's knowledge.

"In the '50s, it was most of Japanese influences," he said. "In the '60s, it was the Chinese's turn to influence design. Now (this decade) is a demand for organic materials. I think it's time for a Filipino aesthetic to influence the world. For instance, 90 percent of the world's abaca comes from the Philippines. This material is used for tote tiny bags at the most cheap. There's so much potential."

As one of Manila FAME's advisers, Josie finds the opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas with colleagues in the couture industry a welcome one.

"Collaborating with experts who inspire me and show what excellence is all about is always exciting," he said. "It's a design, it has continued to open my eyes to new possibilities and other aspects of design."

Layug and Cobonpue would create a segment on the venue's second floor devoted to furniture design. Cobonpue also hopes that it would become the blueprint of future fairs organized by Manila FAME.

"Furniture is a fantastic example of someone who has learned to make do, adapt, and even flutter despite the dearth of locally available raw materials.

"Like the garments industry, the same thing is happening in furniture," he said. "Because of the big fair, our base is importation. Around 80 percent of what I do uses imported components."

MODELS give a preview of some of the looks in store for "Manila Wear."

For cleaner air, less stress at home or at work—indoor plants

From page C1

"The heat of the sun, allergies and the promise of air-conditioning tend to drive people indoors. But for those who take the heat and cope with the pollen, spending time in nature might have some surprising health benefits. In a series of studies, scientists found that when people swap their concrete confines for a few hours in non-natural surroundings—forests, parks and other places with plenty of trees—they experience increased immune function.

"Science also has begun to show that nature also chalks up to physiologic, the substance released that plants emit to protect them from rotting and from insects, which also seems to benefit humans.

"One study published in January 2011 notices data on 280 healthy people in Japan, where visiting nature parks for therapeutic effect has become a popular practice called *shinrin-yoku* or 'forest bathing.' One day, some people were instructed to walk through a forest or wooded area for a few hours, while others walked in urban areas or city centers. On the second day, they traded places. The researchers found that 'forest bathing' among plants produced lower concentrations of cortisol, lower pulse rate and lower blood pressure, among other things. A number of other studies have shown that strolling parks and human access to solar levels of white blood cells, including one in 2007 in which researchers took a two-hour

HAP Landscape

walk in a forest (and then days had a 50-percent spike in levels of natural killer cells. And another found an increase in white blood cells that bind a toxic to viruses caused by phytoncides in forest air."

Bottom line

The bottom line, according to such studies, is that exposure to plants and trees benefit our health.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and other VOCs (volatile organic chemicals), or pollutants emitted by animals and humans and also by synthetic materials such as plastic, synthetic fabrics, paint, electronic devices and aerosol sprays.

Plants give off the life-saving element oxygen, thus refreshing the environment and keeping it clean.

Some scientists recommend Oxygen therapy for cancer and other ailments. With proper nutrition, one can do deep breathing exercises during morning, noon and evening, for at least 20 minutes per session, among trees and other plants. Oxygen, according to scientists, enhances and tightens our body cells to resist cancer and other ailments.

In a NASA experiment, scientists found out that house plants and flowers, placed in the spacecraft removed the VOCs from the sealed test chambers. The findings prompted the Associated Landscape Contractors of America to join NASA in a two-year study on how indoor plants could remove the likes of benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from central chambers.

The positive results led ALCA to create the Plants for Clean Air Council, a non-profit organization supporting the cultivation of plants in order to improve indoor air quality.

'Biobooths'

NASA also developed a tightly sealed structure called "Biobooths," designed and engineered to enhance insulation and energy installation. It was found out that the people who entered the "Biobooths" of fair experienced symptoms typically associated with "sick building syndrome," such as dizziness and eye burning, allergies, asthma, fatigue, headaches, nervous disorders, immunosuppression and breathing problems.

Air samples were taken first before an activated carbon plant filter and plants were placed. Then, six large philodendrons and one bamboo-like golden pothos plant were placed inside the "Biobooths." Individuals who entered the "Biobooths" after 48 hrs no longer experienced the symptoms associated with SBS.

The conclusion was that house plants are, indeed, health-friendly in their skill. It is improve the quality of the air we breathe.

Indoor plants, called exotic plants, can be moved from one place to another and are appropriate not only for warehouses, condominiums and apartments where garden space is limited, but also for hotels, hospitals and all other places where people gather.

These plants include gardens or plant arts include dish gardens or tray landscapes, wall hanging gardens, terrariums, botanical and terrariums.

I propose that engineers, architects, scientists and environmentalists work together to develop and design indoor plants, whether residential, office or business establishments, where plants can be easily cultivated in rooms, rooftops, windows, walls both in and out, hallways or corridors and other spaces.

Visit the 41st Philippine Flower and Garden Show at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City, opening until March 12. The starter will give a farmers demonstration on the topic on March 10, 2 p.m. Call (047) 602.1312, e-mail rapidpentral@yahoo.com.ph.

ABOVE: wall-hanging tires; top: terrariums; Anita Bernal Landscape Style

Rina Albert-Llamas mines motherhood

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

BALANCING motherhood and career artist-entrepreneur Rina Albert-Llamas proves how everyday life can inspire design, and how her work can be a means to understand and document her life.

The creator of Rina Designs, a fun stationery line, expanded the range to include animal bookends, keepsake boxes, T-shirts for toddlers and "mommy" (baby bodysuits), thanks to her sons Aurelius, 3, and Matteo, 2, whom she claims are her inspirations.

People have been snapping up the elephants, giraffes and hippos products.

"I've always wanted to design kiddie things," said Llamas. "I enjoyed reading Padraig Rau's for kids, Mary's children's section and Tagalogs on Show Sale."

Based on her sons' room color scheme of jade blue and apple green with chocolate brown accents, Rina created bookends and picture frames on their motifs.

Bestsellers are the animal designs, including Rina's signature elephant.

"I've always loved elephants," she said. "The first illustration for my brand was an elephant with a bookend on its back. The first type of elephant decor such as the Jim Thompson elephants, as well."

The elephant theme, a symbol of prosperity, recurs in her collections. "Lately it's more quirky and playful," she said. She attributed the playfulness to motherhood and its joys.

In her youth, Rina Albert-Llamas would customize herself in such stationery icons as Pigpen in the US and Gudang and Ferda in Europe. Paper products became an "obsession."

In New York, she took up business Management and Fine Arts in Manhattanville College and graduated summa cum laude. Rina wanted to train in an ad agency. However, her mother encouraged her to pursue her passion in design.

Rina first started her stationery business selling in bazaars and, subsequently, Rina Designs became a consignee in Rustic Bazaar, Bazaar's Bazaars, Wrap Shop and Fully Booked.

Last year, she set up kiosks at Glorietta 4 where fans and regulars could avail of Christmas bookmarks.

Her best-selling memory game set her the liberty to offer more products such as nurse bottles, mugs, coasters, notepads, T-shirts, bag tags and children's wooden puzzle stories.

She says her products reach milestones in her life. Five years ago, she produced invitation cards for her wedding to Rafael Llamas. It gave birth to her all-inclusive show-on-invitations-to-wedding-bridal-showers, post-wedding thank-you and informal weddings.

"The invitation showcased some of my wedding illustrations," she said. "Saved the best because popular. I did an illustration of Rafi in a suit and myself in a gown. It showed the bride what I would do for them. Some brides have special requests. People like playful invitations. They don't like stuffy invites."

Her influence led her to diversify into wedding giveaways, such as illustrated notepads, book plates, wooden frames with keepsake events that could be customized to the wedding theme.

"If the wedding colors are emerald and aqua, we can do a colored keepsake box with the couple's initials," said Llamas.

Motherhood motivated her to add T-shirts for children as creator wooden products. Keepsake boxes, frames and bookends are adorned with her signature animals. She also created onesies with colorful designs and customized bottle T-shirts.

Her sons love her products. "I personalized shirts for them. The bookends and frames are displayed in their room."

Rina Designs has thematic designs such as elephants, food and sweets and vehicles. She aims to create colorful illustrations of cars and trucks. "I call it the Traffic Collection because the vehicles look as if they were stuck in traffic."

For Aurelius's second birthday party, she illustrated all kinds of vehicles for the invitations, party favors, cake and giveaway book plates. "I did a gumdrop of a fire truck. The kids would stick the missing wheel into the truck."

The Travel Collection has become one of the latest selling designs, especially the gift wrappers. "People love them for little boys," said Albert-Llamas. "I usually get inspired to create stuff that my family will appreciate."

RINA'S signature elephants grace the bookends as mini chic hippo and giraffe.

RINA'S cutest Valentine designs are found in mugs, water bottles, bag tags.

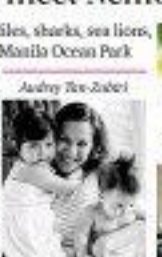
KATTY and Rina Llamas with kids Santino and Matteo

TRAFFIC COLLECTION inspired by Rina's sons are found in wrappers and stationery.

The kids meet Nemo and the penguins

Along with the crocodiles, sharks, sea lions, jellyfish, and more at Manila Ocean Park

Audrey Tee-Zubiri



MAMA DIARIES

AFTER an exceptionally long and hectic week for my husband, all he wanted was a full day of bonding with the kids. We thought about where we could go and what we could do that didn't involve going to the mall, and collectively something rose for the kids.

I thought of checking out the Mind Museum at the Fort, but it wasn't open yet (can't wait to check it out next week when it's fully opened). Then it hit us—the Manila Ocean Park! We all we were to Manila.

My little ones at that age (3, 11 and 5.5) where they really enjoy animals and fish, so it was the perfect place to take them.

We arrived at around 10 a.m. on a weekday. My daughter is wouldn't be so busy since it wasn't a weekend, but boy were we ever wrong!

There were lines of students on field trip everywhere, but surprisingly it didn't feel crazy or crowded at all. The Ocean Park mall has worked out a pretty efficient system.

In the entrance were different packages to choose from. There were the basic package which included admission, and access to the aquarium. Add-ons, such as watching the sea lion show, the jelly fish room, the glass boat ride and the penguins and more village, had to be purchased separately.

Initially, I didn't like this set-up, as I prefer just buying one all-access ticket. But then they explained that shopping up the sessions allowed pricing that would let people choose what they could afford, as that more children could enjoy the park. That made sense.

Rainforest

The entrance was impressive—high-ceiling ceiling. We were surprised to enter a rainforest complete with trees hanging from huge fleshy vines. It turned out we were in the freshwater fish area.

It doesn't sound exciting, but here we saw huge, freaky looking fish such as the arowana and giant catfish longer than my son! Some of the fish we saw were in a pile of growing up to 1.8 ft, according to our guide. They had to cover the tops of their aquariums to prevent them from jumping out and eating birds! I sure wouldn't want to swim here to

MY friend Nemo!

THE PENGUINS make me wouldn't leave!

DEVELOPING baby sharks evolving inside the eggs!

face with them to a lake somewhere.

We also saw crocodiles and sealife, which, ridiculous prompt, is recognized as Patrick from Sponge Bob. (Duh.)

Past the freshwater fish, we entered a darkened room where there were all kinds of beautiful and unique species inside lighted aquariums. There were sea horses, rays and lion fish, among many others, but one of the coolest things they had on display were the white spotted bamboo shark eggs that were held up against the light. There were eggs in different stages, and you could actually see the baby shark developing and swimming inside!

From there it was time to move on to the aquariums where they keep the really big fish, including the puffer fish. I can't remember the names of the others, but for some reason I keep thinking they looked like giant ol' bluegill.

Finally, we moved into the highlight of our Oceanlandia trip, the underwater viewing tunnel. It turns out that this is the longest in Asia, something 35 meters long! It was an awesome experience, seeing the fish swimming around and above you, especially by when the pops would glide by smoothly with their wings outstretched.

At the end were the shark tanks, featuring more fish than I was certain I would not want to bump into or any of my diving trips. We walked past the fish four ups, where you could have tiny fish eat the dead skin from your feet, and the line for the glass bottom boat ride, but agreed not to try either any more because by this time, we were all famished and the fish in the tanks were all starting to look more delicious than entertaining. It was time to grab a bite.

Asian food

Fortunately for the fish, there were choices, such as Mott's Deli and Bistelle House. There is also Food Court, Mikado, Shakey's, Mikan, which served all kinds of Asian food.

After lunch, it was time to head over to the sea lion show. It was very fun, but there was a good number of drenched seats. The show featured a very smart female sea lion named Umiwa. They were a charming pair who did their tricks perfectly every time. It was a fun break from the aquariums.

But the best part of the trip for my kids was the park's latest addition—the penguins and the animals around them! There was an ice slide as well, but it was only for bigger kids and adults. Jasmin was absolutely delighted to see the penguins! They were behind a glass wall in a setting that looked straight out of Antarctica.

My little adventurer laughed his head off every time they came close as they persistently tried to knock on the glass with their beaks to get the toy in Jasmin's hand!

At the Forest Village, it was Adrianne's turn to be delighted by the flowering trees! We were pink, then purple, then white, then yellow, then red (yes, I did say red). They make sure we wear a jacket before you enter, but I still wouldn't last more than five minutes inside. But finally, my daughter's dream of seeing a snowman half of her size came true! Where have cheaper Alitaya would see her first snowman in the Philippines?

By this time, it was already suppertime for my kids, and the pet Jellyfish room was the perfect way to wind down. It was pitch black inside, with what sounded like a classic soothing music playing in the background and different kinds of jellyfish swam gracefully around amid the changing colors of their aquarium lights.

As much as I wanted to stay and wait for the musical fountain show that night, there was no way my kids would stay awake until evening, so we decided to call it a day.

Of course they came back in life the minute we passed the gift shop and the canopy malls, but soon they were sound asleep in their car seats, as we made our way home, probably happily dreaming of lions and their new penguin friend.

Keeping safe this hot season

An extension cord or power strip makes it easy to turn several appliances on and off

THE DRY and hot season is upon us. This means not only higher power consumption, as we try to keep cool, but also greater risk of fire.

I found a brochure from the Manila Electric Company, "Guide to Safe Convenient Home Power," that recommends that I find out what I know. I don't know how I got it, but you may want to ask the nearest Meralco office for a copy.

A good starting point considering the season is the section on "Basic Home Safety Tips":

+ Keep television sets away from windows. When it rains, Meralco says, water may get into the TV housing and damage the set. "This may be the dry season, but we do have rains every now and then." A wet TV can put people at risk for electric shock. For this reason, customers with liquid, such as vases or glasses, should also not be placed on top of the TV set.

+ Keep small metal objects away from TV sets. Paper clips, nails and other small metal objects are conductors of electricity. They can cause fire and damage the set.

+ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or causes an electric shock, unplug it and have it checked by an electrician or have it replaced immediately.

+ Do not run electrical cords under rugs, carpets or furniture. Walking on cords can break wiring and possibly cause fire.

+ Check all extension cords and computer equipment. Make sure all equipment and electrical appliances are in good condition and working properly. Look for cracks in or damage to wiring, plugs and connectors.

Energy saving

To make a conversion to plug and unplug appliances

THE CONSUMER
Linda R. Bolido

from electrical sockets, Meralco suggests using power strips or extension cords, as they are more popularly known here.

Whether a power strip or a normal "non-off" point for electronics, video games and computers when not in use. Using a power strip allows multiple devices to be plugged into one unit," Meralco says.

Instead of having to unplug multiple devices, you only have the power strip to disconnect from the outlet. Many power strips have separate switches for every appliance. You can still turn the switch on or off to cut the power supply.

The power company also says the screen size of your high-definition TV should be based on your viewing distance. For example, if you have a 21-inch TV is 1.6 feet and the multiple is 3.3 feet.

For a 37-inch set, the multiplier is 6 feet and the distance is 10 feet. Given the sizes of many condominium and apartment units these days, the 32-inch set, even if you can afford it, may not be the ideal choice.

The brochure offers a few tips to help you decide what TV size is suitable for your living room, or wherever you plan to put the set. It also contains a table listing manufacturers and standards covering dimensions for different TV sizes, from 21 to 103 inches.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7th floor, Philippine Star Building, 1000 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City, fax 8574-8654, or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

Fartin Folding Tub easily adjusts into different folding and locking positions to fit newborns and babies up to two years old.

BABY COMPANY'S BABY SALE

The heat is on this summer with hot bargains from Baby Company, the Baby Specialist, as it offers up to 50% off of a wide selection of essentials from trusted and well known brands in its Baby Sale this March.

There are a lot of cool stuff for baby: personal care items from Johnson's Baby, bath time accessories such as folding tube from Fartin, and terry towel and robe sets from Owen. There are also grooming kits, healthcare accessories and home safety items from Safety 1st, and so much more.

The Baby Sale is ongoing until March 31 at Baby Company in all SM Department Stores and at specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, the Annex at SM City North EDSA, SM Southmall and SM City Cebu. Also visit our website at www.babycompany.ph and be a fan of our Facebook page.

This Owen 3-piece Starter Set includes a terry-hooded towel and four wash cloths with embroidered whale and fish designs.

Owen Bathrobes and Slippers are made of soft and absorbent cotton terry to keep baby warm and dry.

Safety 1st Hospital+Doctor Complete Healthcare Kit includes a digital thermometer, medicine spoon, nasal aspirator, fold-up nail clippers and medicine dropper with spill guard in a zippered travel case.

Safety 1st Complete Grooming Kit includes a brush and comb set, toddler toothbrush, nail clippers, baby scissors, and four emery boards in an easy-view travel case.

Safety 1st Infant to Toddler Oral Care Kit includes a fingertip toothbrush with raw, rice-shaped teether, dual-sided infant gum stimulator and toothbrush, toddler toothbrush, and a convenient case for on-the-go storage.

Safety 1st Clear View Ear Scope illuminates and magnifies baby's ear canal with its superior lens and wider viewing features to help detect ear infections.

Johnson's Baby Daily Sun Protection Lotion has a mild and gentle formula that protects baby's delicate skin against the harmful effects of the sun, while leaving skin moisturized all day.

These Safety 1st Corner Edge Cushions are made of foam material that easily fits tables, counters and other home furniture to keep baby safe from sharp edges.

BABY COMPANY
THE BABY SPECIALIST

BABY SALE

now thru March 31

up to 50% off
on great selections

FREE Pet Buddy Bag
for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P2,000 of Baby Company items

Safety 1st Johnson's baby FARLIN Bodiless Baby

Be a member now!

Connect with us
www.babycompany.com.ph

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Kin and money issues trigger readers' debate online

Should an OFW give everything to his/her family? Should a child leave the house by 18 years old or pay rent to his parents?

STORY ON PAGE D4

Top 10 Internet threats and how parents could protect their kids

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

B. LYNN — BY JEG MERCADO

PUGAD BABOY — BY PHIL LOPEZ

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HOANG LO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RHYMES WITH ORANGE — BY HILARY PRICE

SIDEWAYS — BY DANIEL SHELTON

RUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG — BY MARA CULL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be firm in your decisions, but be willing to change your mind if new information comes to light. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Your ability to communicate with others will help you get what you want. **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** You are naturally strong-willed, but others will push you to your limits. Don't let them. Be sure to take time for yourself and your loved ones. Don't neglect your health. Sometimes you have to say no. **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Don't get your back in a twist over a difficult situation with authority figures. Instead, be calm and collected and you will find a solution. Avoid unnecessary confrontations with your friends. **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Don't be afraid to take a risk. You will be amazed at how successful you can be. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes, you can't do it all on your own. **LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)** Someone will be very impressed with your work ethic. Don't be afraid to show off your skills. Your hard work will pay off. **VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)** Be honest, but not too much so. Sometimes you have to tell white lies to keep the peace. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all on your own. **LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Be sure to communicate clearly with others. Don't assume that they know what you're thinking. Be sure to ask questions. **SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** Don't let your past get in the way of your future. Learn from your mistakes and move on. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all on your own. **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Be sure to communicate clearly with others. Don't assume that they know what you're thinking. Be sure to ask questions. **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)** Don't let your past get in the way of your future. Learn from your mistakes and move on. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all on your own. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)** Don't be afraid to take a risk. You will be amazed at how successful you can be. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all on your own. **PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)** Be honest, but not too much so. Sometimes you have to tell white lies to keep the peace. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Sometimes you can't do it all on your own.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs, see www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	7	5	1	6	9	8	4
8	4	1	2	9	3	6	5	7
5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2
1	2	3	6	7	8	5	4	9
7	9	8	3	5	4	1	2	6
6	5	4	1	2	9	8	7	3
9	8	6	7	4	2	5	3	1
3	1	2	9	6	5	4	7	8
4	7	5	8	3	1	2	9	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		8	7					
	7		1					
4				8				5
6	4	9			2	3	1	
		3						2
		2						7
		7	8	6	3	2	4	1
		6		9		5		3
		4		1		7		9

Difficulty Level ★★★

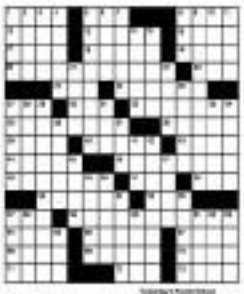
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

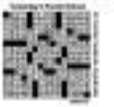
1. Snake eel
5. Bird of prey
10. Hill or plateau
12. Mount St. Helens output
13. Bring forward (as a millennium age)
14. Hydrocarbon suffix
15. Woodwind section
16. Pronoun suffix
17. Dallas persons
18. Lacking
19. Crunching gear
20. Mental faculty of sorts
21. Electronic device
23. Preserve
24. Cabbage
25. Fish collection
26. Train intermediately
27. Mountain range
28. Chemical compounds
29. Pay (for)
30. Pay (for)
31. Is a more recent number
32. Ale
33. Hawk
34. Bird's vocabulary
35. Bird's nest
36. Singing bird
37. Bird (Spanish)
38. Bird's beak
39. Insidious
40. Bird's abode
41. Bird's eggshell piece
42. Southern specialty
43. Tree fan
44. Tree of the pea family
45. Rodeo or horse-trainer's contraption

DOWN

1. Keep carefully
2. Amphibious bird
3. Dashboard
4. Bird's claw
5. Fishing implement
6. Bird's home
7. Bird's beak
8. Bird's nest
9. Bird's claw
10. Tall trees
11. Trees
12. Chemical carbonyl
13. Animal capacity
14. Farming farm
15. Bird's beak
16. Bird's nest
17. Counting rhyme
18. Bird's nest
19. Bird's beak
20. Deserve
21. Fraudulent
22. Industrial
23. Bird's nest
24. Bird's beak
25. Judy of films
26. Bird's nest
27. Bird's beak
28. Bird's nest
29. Bird's beak
30. Bird's nest
31. Bird's beak
32. Bird's nest
33. Bird's beak
34. Bird's nest
35. Bird's beak
36. Bird's nest
37. Bird's beak
38. Bird's nest
39. Bird's beak
40. Bird's nest
41. Bird's beak
42. Bird's nest
43. Bird's beak
44. Bird's nest
45. Bird's beak



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



DUMPTO Hernan, mid, BCDA chair Felicito Payumo, Mariter J. Mocpagal and Cesar Gabaldon

FLOT PRESIDENT Napoleon Nazareno, Arturo Mocpagal, Alfred Ty and Hirotaka Sugata

TIPE and Stephen Sows, Dina Mocpagal, Lucio Dizon and Faye Comerat

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ERNESTO Gipson, Antonio Gipson, Cora Bolalin and Cecilia Gipson

JJ Sisil and Maria Francisco, Mariter Mocpagal and Enrique Manuel

CARLOS Ortal, Alex Mocpagal, Hubertson Alvarez and Orlando Sors

VIPs toast ultra-slick new car showroom

WELCOMING guests in the opening of the new Toyota Global City showroom in Taguig are Mariter Jalandoni, Alan J. Mocpagal, Arturo R. Mocpagal and Melissa M. Mercado.

EYE Guevara, Kara Madrigal, Joan Mendiet, Hersh Tobias, Donald Devara, Tatyana Guevara, Akiki Hamao, Pam Estacio, Marie Barrientos and Basil Lazaro

BOOM and Siel Gonzales Lazaro, Fernan Gonzales, Lisa Bautista, Jolene Francisco and Alexandra Rocha

PATRICK Hosea and Tatyana Guevara of Cora cupcakes

CORA owners Patrick Hosea and Tatyana Guevara

TATIANA with parents Banjie and Eric Guevara

MARIANNE Hizon, Bootan Concepcion and Bonnaire Balaoson

TATYANA and Banjie Guevara, Miss Benavidez and Cristina Garcia

MAYO Rocha, John and Pilina Bartz

THE HOSTS Jennifer Daniel, Patrick, Tatyana Guevara, Carol and Wes Hosea

CHEF Choong Yun Sze

MIKEL Soto, Tevin Bennett and Miguel Jean

Cora, new cupcake resto

Some of my close pals rushed to the soft opening of the newest "It" place in town, Cora, a cupcake and sangria bar at 22 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati.

The new place had been recommended by culinary expert Carla Reyes Singco. As expected, it was a true discovery! It offers awesome cupcake and jugs of ice-cold Sangria to devour in all sinful indulgence.

The place was conceptualized by young and talented entrepreneurs Tatyana Guevara and Patrick Hosea. They had just come from Barcelona, Spain, where they did their culinary training in a Ritz-Carlton property) called Hotel Arts.

"Since we are both food lovers, we decided to bring the Spanish experience of great tapas and refreshing Sangria back to Manila," Tatyana said over a delectable merienda of the excellent choices of tapas.

Cora's gorgeous interior decorators are created by Luigi Tolentino. Cora is Catalan for cute. Mentally, hello!

These two young entrepreneurs used their talents in different aspects to figure a concept unlike the norm, which features the excellent Sangria con Fetas in Mediterranean Cream sauce; the to-die-for Ravioli de Trufa; Cupcakes with free gems; and refreshing Sangria con Frutas.

Cora's cupcakes are truly delicious and unique. Flavors include Red Velvet, Chocolate Peanut Butter, Lemon Meringue, Strawberry Shortcake, Banana Split, Tiramisu, Cookies and Cream, Salted Caramel, Coconut Macaroon, Mocha Latte, Chocolate Mint, Chocolate Fudge, Vanilla Bean, Carrot Cake, Red Velvet, Peanut Butter Cup, Chocolate Raspberry, Chocolate Hazelnut, Chocolate Orange, Chocolate Coconut, Chocolate Caramel, Chocolate Banana, Chocolate Almond, Chocolate Vanilla, Chocolate Cookies and Cream, Chocolate Strawberry, Chocolate Mocha, Chocolate Chocolate, Chocolate Chocolate Chip, Chocolate Red Velvet, Chocolate Peanut Butter, Chocolate Lemon Meringue, Chocolate Strawberry Shortcake, Chocolate Banana Split, Chocolate Tiramisu, Chocolate Cookies and Cream, Chocolate Salted Caramel, Chocolate Coconut Macaroon, Chocolate Mocha Latte

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Kin and money issues trigger readers' debate online

IT TOOK an outsider to address the big fat elephant in the room, in a manner of speaking.

Last week's Parenting article, where Saturday Inquirer Bonnie report Jean Ortiuzar gave insights into the Filipino culture, spawned a debate among online readers. Obviously the reporter's commentary hit a raw nerve. It was a case of things we already know but wouldn't talk about, because they were just too uncomfortable to address.

Dennis, who has had Filipinos working for her back home in the US for many years, noted the Filipinos' tendency to rely solely on a single member of the family for their livelihood...the overseas worker, who sends his/her entire paycheck, like clockwork, every month.

[http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/parenting/2012/02/29/parents-should-never-tell-a-child-they-hate-having-to-leave-home-for-ofw-like-mom-or-dad]

Dennis also gave advice on how to teach children about financial responsibility, and advised parents to save for their own retirement so they don't end up depending on their children in their old age—a point that didn't sit well with some readers.

Some resorted to ad hominem attacks.

"What do you expect from a person who comes from a country who leaves their parents after 18, dumps their elders in the aged care center, just like saving kabalo to have them," writes reader Basil. "They do not even visit their parents once a week but they take care of their dogs as such every day. They even prefer to walk with their dogs every day instead of their parents. What a shame!"

"I have to agree with her but if you are a caring child and you love your parents, then you should take care of them and don't dump them in a nursing home," counters reader Ann. "Be proud of our culture!"

To which Anonymous points out: "She never said that Filipinos abandon their parents. She only mentioned that the parents should have money saved for themselves. What's wrong with that? I think we should take in the good points and throw away with negatives... Sometimes like these (if) we want to resort to give a talk for 80% bank clerks) are not meant to highlight the defects in American culture. It is meant to correct our concepts on money."

"Everything Ann says is just common sense," writes Rene V. "But common sense is not what I see in OFW families left behind. Almost all I know in the Philippines and most family members here copy the OFW as a source of unending cash and there lies the tragedy of families dependent on one or two taxpayers there... Ann just echoes the old saying of our ancestors... Bilog ipon sayo."

"Nadidiring kasi ah 'yung ibinabalita ah sa per person daw ang gastos reader J. "Is reminds me of a guy who was paying for the school tuition of her two sisters on her wife's side of the family. When he finally got a mortgage on his house, he told his brothers in law that he could not do it anymore. The stupid Filipino brothers in law got angry and even accused him in his house breaking some agreement."

Anonymous adds, "Her idea to charge rent for adult children living with parents is good!... I especially like the idea that whatever the parents collect in rent will be returned in the future as seed money when the child moves out to live on his/her own."

Some commenters blame the culture of mendicancy on the government and society. Writes Anonymous: "Dapat ng ngalon ng ating gobyerno ang pagbibigay ng pera sa mga mahihirap ng walang kapalit na gawain. Imaan-tain ang mga ng tamad ang mga tamad ang mga mahihirap... Kahit man lang magbawas sa kanilang kurapsyon ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng trabaho sa mga tao."

Some readers, however, were more sympathetic.

"When do you expect from a person who comes from a country who leaves their parents after 18, dumps their elders in the aged care center, just like saving kabalo to have them," writes reader Basil. "They do not even visit their parents once a week but they take care of their dogs as such every day. They even prefer to walk with their dogs every day instead of their parents. What a shame!"

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Saucony's new line of performance running gear is finally in the Philippines

The long wait is over: Global athletic brand, Saucony, is finally here in the Philippines to present up the running experience of Filipino athletes and runners with its latest line of minimalist footgear.

Filipino runners used to get their pair of Saucony shoes from the United States. But with the arrival of this industry giant to the country, they can now easily pick up a pair of Saucony shoes and further enhance their athletic and elite runners' feet up over the world and being absurd.

In fact, some of the world's best athletes such as professional American sprinter Tyrone Lucas (2005 U.S. Olympian Maggie Lewy Ostrosky, US middle-distance queen Johnnaya, and Olympic athlete and two-time World Champion Hyleas Fountain, among others, can attest to the positive impact of Saucony shoes in their respective field of sports.

"As we bring this global brand into the Philippines, we acknowledge our commitment to our new products and excellence maximum performance and efficiency in running," according to Duane Sandoval, Concession Coordinator Philippines.

Saucony is recognized for combining performance, innovation and passion all in terms of technical footgear for running, trail running and training.

And as it launches in the Philippines, Saucony brings in the highly anticipated Pro Grid Kinvara 2, which is minimally constructed, lightweight and responsible for enhanced responsiveness.

Progrid Kinvara 2 features a more heel-to-toe drop that encourages more of a midfoot strike and a blade of light and breathable stony mesh material for a comfortable lockup, fit and support. The Kinvara's minimalist approach allows the foot to run unrestricted, delivering a natural feel ready for efficient runners everywhere. Kinvara has earned the Runners the "Best Debut" award from Runner's World Magazine.

Saucony also brings a whole new angle on running with the introduction of Guide 5 that features the brand's groundbreaking Saucony Shoes™ technology. The Guide 5 is very balanced feel to be offered, reduced from 12mm to 8mm, positions the foot during impact in a way that creates a greater range of motion for the biomechanical stress-relieving tandem system, allowing for a more powerful running stride. Additionally, the shoe's lower is also stitched to further fit the runner's foot and midfoot, resulting in a more smooth stride. Guide 5 has also been named "Editor's Choice" by the worldwide authority on running, Runner's World.

Besides the Guide 5, the newly released Genesis of Strong collection includes the Triumph, a the brand's premier neutral cushioned training shoe with an ultra-soft ride and featuring Saucony's innovative PowerGrid™ technology, a new injection-molded foam that delivers an energy, plush, yet still responsive feel at impact, and the Hurricane 15, a stability shoe that's a full runner's gear that is unsurpassed.

Saucony is also launching a new brand campaign, "Wherever Because we run." This campaign celebrates Saucony's authenticity and emotional connection with runners everywhere by capturing the defining moments of the running community.

For creating the best shoes and gear on the planet, Saucony strives comprehensive runner on every run, everywhere.

To test and experience the innovative technology of Saucony's latest range, visit the Rubi in Bonifacio Global City and Timoney and Rotunda in Bonifacio High Street and Alabonan Saucony is also available in SBC Dispatchmart Bonax, Fairview Market and soon to open in Manila and North EDSA. Check out Saucony in Facebook: www.facebook.com/SauconyPhilippines.

ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Rianne G. Velarde

Fox's local content

FOX PHILIPPINES, debuting this month, has required local content from GMA 7. This was confirmed by Kapuso exec Annette Gozon-Abrogar. GMA 7 soap operas and movies will soon be aired across Asia by the US cable channel. Among the shows in the lineup are "Captain Barbell," "Lilasa," "Encantadia" and "Temptress in Moreta."

Beyond Sun Elupe Jr.

DID YOU KNOW...

CHEER FACTOR

Whitney's daughter gives TV interview

NEW YORK—Oprah Winfrey has landed an interview with Whitney Houston's daughter, his rival other family members for a TV special that will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

"Oprah's Next Chapter" will feature an interview with 18-year-old Bobbi Kristina Houston's only child, as well as Patricia Houston, her sister-in-law and estranged, and the singer's brother Gary. It is scheduled to air on Sunday.

The interview was found dead in a bathtub at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 11.

Whitney was one of the guests invited to the funeral. /AFP

BOBBI KRISTINA HOUSTON

IMAGINE Yandoo: "Indie auteurs have shown that film can tackle the same issues addressed in literature."

'Mr. Y' at the movies

Indie film directors mourn loss of staunch supporter:

- "We honor him, a cineaste, a good man"
- "I feel fortunate to have met him"
- "I cried"

By Rayan Sarmiento Jr.

THE IMAGINE Yandoo that the Inquirer Entertainment section knew was a ceaseless movie buff. And thank goodness for that.

In spite of his incredibly full schedule, he was a virtual fixture in screenings of great films, by both internationally renowned directors and struggling newcomers. He always made time for local and international film festivals held in Metro Manila (on top of classical and jam sessions, art exhibits and plays).

This same life force champion of Pinoy indie films. He would sit with members of Inquirer's talented movie chit-chatting regular screenings of these movies at this second-floor cardfest joint built, and then meet with the filmmakers and cast members personal with anticipated realizations.

At the first Inquirer Indie Tribute in December 2010, he said in his speech: "I've

PHOTO 1 >>

Memo to US actor: You were not in PH

DID YOU KNOW...

A PHILIPPINE offi cial denied claims by Hollywood actor Taylor Kitsch that he got caught transmuggling a contraband item from a customs official in the country, saying the actor was apparently in hallucinations at the time.

But not if Customs Commissioner Rudy Rimon said he investigated claims an airport officer threatened to send the "Friday Night Lights" star back to Japan, his point of origin, because his passport had run out of pages.

On the "Late Show with David Letterman," Claire Dedeera Kitsch, 30, also alleged that the unidentified official demanded that he be given an iPhone.

"I feel confident Del Mi Kitsch was mistaken," Rimon said in his report, published on the ABS-CBN website.

And how first had

TAYLOR KITSCH

friend encounter an immigration person of Kitsch's rank, Rimon said.

Also, the Philippine government had not given any permits for the television shooting of the Oliver Stone-directed "Savages," contrary to the actor's suggestion.

Rimon said he has read some scenes in the coming film, also starring John Travolta and Uma Thurman, were scored by filmed in Indonesia. He couldn't say whether the shots

"Unfortunately, the damage is done," Rimon said. /AFP

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OPENING THIS WEEK

TAYLOR Kitsch and Lynn Collins in "John Carter"

Moneyball

Directed by Bennett Miller; stars Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright, Stephen Bishop, Brent Jennings, Chris Pratt

Messages (Pitt) of a luckless baseball team turns to statistics and unorthodox analysis, shaking up the sports industry. Here Todoro's David Denby thinks it's "one of the most truthful of baseball movies ... it confronts the ungainly of a very rough game." Washington Post's Ann Hornaday agrees: "Like a long, languorous seventh-inning stretch ... [it] saturates." Time's Richard Corliss hails it as "a solid, bustling social comedy in the 130-IQ level ... [with] singing, stinging repartee."

CHRIS Pratt in "Moneyball"

John Carter

Directed by Andrew Stanton; stars Taylor Kitsch, Willem Dafoe, Lynn Collins, Samantha Morton, Thomas Haden Church

Civil war vet (Kitsch) suddenly lands on Mars and must join the struggle to save a stunning princess (Collins). EPI Magazine's Steve Golden describes it as "an oddly unambitious epic ... a refreshing entrapt." Time Pilar's Jonathan Crocker says it's "handsome ... big on audition ... short on action." Quickflix's Simon Miraudo remarks: "Once all the tomfoolery about names and locations under way, we are treated to a series of fairly thrilling action sequences." Cyma Zarghami

Is Christian leaving ABS-CBN?

HAPPINESS is written all over Christian Bautista's face. Aside from his new album, raffles table book "First Class," he has a new lovey, Carla Guevarra.

In his also moving in another network soon? "Nothing is certain," he says. "My contract with ABS-CBN ends in August. After that, I'm open to negotiations."

What made him fall for Carla? "Since if she is Batanguena-Chinese, our attitudes and characters complement each other," he explains. "She never fails to make me smile. We met when we did 'The Kitchen Musical.' She's like a Pinay na, Gail- and family-centered."

Is she wife material? "She definitely is," he admits. "But it's too early to discuss marriage. She's based in Singapore where she works as a model-actress but we talk daily via Skype and see each other every month."

Deeply rooted love makes big planner Bella and long-distance romance worthwhile.

Why Ali left 'Personalan'

Here's the story behind the story of Ali Khatibi leaving live GMA 7 show, "Personalan." Mr. antipa may simpatico (as I fondly call Ali) sent me this via Facebook:

"Ayaw ko pa umalis, what a blessing to have you in my corner as I will always be in yours. Here's the deal, multiparts. 'Personalan' will have a new host starting next week. I am leaving for the US on the 16th. My son Chino has lived and worked in Pasadena since 2000. When he says here for the Christmas holidays, Joey na-husband! Hiyera took him to Singapore and he loved it so much that he wants to relocate there. I really, really want to make this happen. We have started to network for employment possibilities. Basically, I have to deal with selling or renting out the house, and selling/shipping the household effects. Hay, ito na lang si Chino after Mikki passed, and for him to be a few hours flight away would make the entire family happy.

DOLLY Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

"The icky don't I just take a leave? Truth to tell, hosting 'Personalan' since July has left me emotionally exhausted ... I get so involved with the case studies ... I imbibe and absorb the negativity for the most part the atmosphere in the set is jovial—sometimes, hilarious. Aw it's true that there was an incident the night I resigned. Margaret you sit out... Let me be quick to add that we patched it up soon after. I say it every day on the show 'Walang hindi maaliwalas sa maalwalang sa mga.' We practiced what we were preaching all along. Siguro nagkapera. I will not hesitate to work with this group again. I wish them the very best."

That, ali said, was on top of reading each opinion. "My taping days are Tuesday and Wednesday and I couldn't get up for a day or two after. [My husband] Omar calls it 'insomnia Thursday' Having given up all, so here we agree ako."

But minus the show well. "Thank you, GMA News TV, for the privilege of spearheading a novel brand of public service."

Up close-and-personal encounter with her family are for more important to Ali than her close-ups in "Personalan."

After the sunset

Khian Rances becomes back after her hiatus mom love affair with Ed Mc on Dirk Hoo' "My Kontakula Girl" (opens March 14).

In the movie that pairs her with Albert Martinez, Khian portrays Isabel, an infamous soap opera villain who is the most hated personality in the television world. After plays Claire, who breaks Isabel's heart.

"My scene ended Isabel of fate, the ex-lovers fall in love again. Will they get it right the second time around?"

Hmm, shades of Khian's bittersweet romance. But past is past. It's all love and laughter now for Khian in this rom-com...

Joe Barlaan, e-mail wearingthedoubang@yahoo.com

Albert Martinez Khian Rances

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: MONEY BALL
11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 pm
2: DEVIL INSIDE
1:30, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:45 pm
3: EXTREMELY LOUD ...THIS MEANS WAR
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm
4: MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
5:45, 8:30, 11:15 pm
5: ONE FOR THE MONEY
12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00 pm
6: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00 am
7: JACK & JILL/GHOST RIDER 2
12:15, 2:15, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 pm

GREENBELT 1

1: EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 pm
2: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:45, 11:45 pm

GREENBELT 3

1: DEVIL INSIDE
12:00, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 pm
2: THIS MEANS WAR
1:30, 3:30, 5:45, 7:30, 10:00 pm
3: MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm
4: MONEY BALL
1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 pm
5: THE VOW
1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: THIS MEANS WAR
12:00, 2:00, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 pm
2: DEVIL INSIDE
12:45, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 pm
3: MONEY BALL
1:30, 4:15, 6:30, 9:30 pm
4: EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 pm
5: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15 pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMA

1: MONEY BALL
1:30, 3:45, 6:30, 9:30 pm
2: THIS MEANS WAR
12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 9:30 pm
3: DEVIL INSIDE
1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 pm
4: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
1:30, 3:30, 6:15, 7:30, 9:30 pm

MARQUEE

1: THIS MEANS WAR
12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00, 9:45 pm
2: MONEY BALL
12:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15 pm
3: DEVIL INSIDE
12:45, 3:45, 6:30, 8:30, 9:30 pm
4: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
12:00, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 pm

MARKET! MARKET!

1: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
11:45, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 9:15 pm
2: GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE
12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 9:00 pm
3: ONE FOR THE MONEY
12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 pm
4: MONEY BALL
1:45, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30 pm
5: THIS MEANS WAR
12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm
6: DEVIL INSIDE
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 pm
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: EXTREMELY LOUD.../THIS MEANS WAR
12:30, 3:15 pm/6:00, 8:15, 10:30 pm
2: ONE FOR THE MONEY
1:45, 4:45, 9:00, 11:30, 1:30 pm
3: MY WEEK WITH MARILYN
1:00, 3:00, 5:45, 7:30, 10:00 pm
4: MONEY BALL
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 pm
5: DEVIL INSIDE
1:30, 3:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10:00 pm
6: JACK & JILL/GHOST RIDER 2
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 pm
7: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 pm

MARILYN

1: MONEY BALL
11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 pm
2: THE DESCENDANTS
12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00 pm
3: THIS MEANS WAR
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm
4: UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 pm

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Nestor U. Torre

PINOY Junior Master Chef' judges Jessa Zaragoza, Kyle Ocampo and Sam Oh

THE TRIAL cook-off among four survivors in the local Junior Master Chef" recently was a thrilling one, but right down to the wire, with the top two hers, Ryle and Phillip, separated by less than one percentage point on the tally.

The other two did their best to end up in the money, but when the smoke in the studio kitchen cleared, it was Ryle who had brought home the sizzling bacon over Pj. Although the judges evaluated the last round of dishes

[illegible] critics, they were skittish about relating to the contestants.

Since the competitors were children, the judges may have felt that they would be unable to make negative notes, so the early rounds of the tilt were characterized mostly by the judges' heaping resounding praises on the kids.

If practically everything they did was so amazingly wonderful, how would the young cooks improve from week to week?

We viewed the original American edition of the tilt rather regularly, and we didn't see to assess. Rants created with kid gloves. So, the jurors accentuated the positives, but they also pointed out the young cooks' weak points, motivating them to do better.

In addition, the jurors there were more TV-savvy and projected strong (if supportive) personalities, unlike the local jurors, who were too eager to please and not lose feelings, and thus came off as relative wimps.

Happily by the time last week's finals came around, the jurors were getting more helpful with the points, less sad-negative, on the morning cooks' dishes.

Most impressively, the four finalists had become confident and even cocky who thought up unique dishes that proved that they had been helped not by the competition... even as persons.

We trust that this happy outcome wasn't lost on the young people who viewed the tilt, and that it inspired them to aim hearts here to reach for their own hungry and appreciative families!

Cinemalaya protestors: We've only just begun

By Herimel B. Cruz

"OUR GOAL is simply to help filmmakers create their dreams movies," said film producer Bobbie Tan, in the last word because of the controversial disqualification of our finalist in the annual Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Cinemalaya Tan formed Showtime Beyond "MNL 143" from competing due to casting disagreements with its director and producer.

Tan, head of the festival monitoring committee, said he felt Reyes and his supporters' actions framing in sound (security) were "misguided." He explained: "They shouldn't be disqualified. They should be done in a professional manner. People behind Cinemalaya are sincere about helping filmmakers. We've sacrificed so much..."

For the last seven years, the Cinemalaya Foundation has been giving P500,000 in film grants to 10 first-time filmmakers. This year, Reyes would have been included in the New Breed category.

The year's Cinemalaya will run from July 20 to 29 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City.

Mely Mely, whose film "Transit" competed in the Shorts' Showcase (started three years ago) in 2010, said Reyes' experience should not stop the young filmmaker from pursuing his passion. "This does not make him less of a filmmaker or 'MNL 143' less of a film. It's normal to feel bad, but there's no use now grieving," Mely said.

Mely, third the case of Israel Maydeagoa's "Metka," pulled out of the 2010 Cinemalaya main competition (also due to casting disagreements with organizers) but ended up triumphant: it won the Siegel Prize that year (as a side tilt within Cinemalaya) and then best screenplay actress and editing awards at the 34th Gawad Urian in 2011.

Mely admitted he also had "the same down feeling" with Tan while working on "Transit." He said: "I understand Ram I was right in choosing Meryll Soriano and Baron Geisler as lead stars. The first was the acting sensation last year."

Yvonne Nunez, who directed two Cinemalaya films, "Sa" (2008) and "Sampaguita" (2010), told of a similar experience. He recounted how he got Geisler to play the lead role in "Sa," though the executive had wanted a different actor. "I conducted a search for and final choice of Baron's audition piece to the committee ... He, we, there are many ways to prove your point." Geisler also won best actor for "Sa."

Mely suggested that Cinemalaya impose ground rules to avoid future stage. "We should understand that this is an artistic endeavor. We cannot ask somebody to give a painting control. Just tell him to stand, pick an outfit or whatever, for example."

Meanwhile, "MNL 143" producer Mario Almagro has posted this comment on his Facebook account: "We would like to put an emphasis (sic) that going back to competition is a blessing for filmmakers 2012 is not to our opinion, as we intend to move on and make not film outside."

Almagro added: "What's happening now is beyond our personal search for justice to the plight of 'MNL 143.' We already a fight for free cinema. Believe within a faith we will be persevere to build the second of independent filmmaking will hopefully be realized soon ... We've just started. To be continuing."

(mcruz@inquirer.com.ph)

'To the indies—may your tribe increase!'

(Speech given by Inquirer publisher Isagani Kimbot at the *2nd Inquirer Indie Prizes*, Jan. 16, 2011.)

WE FILIPINOS have always been crazy about movies—that is, ever since the media and art forms was introduced into this country in the early 1900s. As the business Governor put it: Making the last edition of 'Pelikula' Nilon, the film festival is separately entertaining, but are "fun per d'one."

Understandably for the greater part of the last century, the great mass of our people was interested more in the entertainment side of the movies, and particularly the side of romantic films by traditional movie makers.

It was only in the 1970s and '80s that fresh ideas and new styles were injected into Philippine movie making. The films of Chito Rono and Eric Quizon are the precursors of today's indies.

Here and abroad, indie directors and auteurs showed that film could address the same issues of alienation, spiritual hunger, dehumanization and existential anxiety that have been addressed in literature, including stage plays, and the visual and graphic arts.

The works of Hamelline Bergman, Kurosawa, Godard, Antonioni and Coe were studied as works of art in the humanity tradition. Similarly, here, the works of Brocka, Bernal, Romero, Castillo, Orbit (Oh Love, Agatha), to name just a few...the list is long—are held up as brilliant works of art.

The development of digital technology helped give the indie movement a big push. In the past, one needed tens of millions of pesos to produce a movie. Digital movie making is much less expensive. Writer Michael Hamilette said, paraphrasing what Francis Ford Coppola noted several years ago, "The great hope of film is not scenario with a young girl holding a cheap digital video camera. She won't have to answer to accountants and her personal vision will be available for download on the internet." Something like this is happening in the Philippines in the movie today.

The business, having always had a culture of relentless, stoppers efforts to improve the quality of our films. It is in the interests of this subversive that we pledge to continue supporting excellent work that the indies have been doing.

May your tribe increase!

AT THE 2nd Inquirer Indie Prizes (from left): Brocka Santos, Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares, Ms. Y and filmmaker Elvi Caroline, one of the honorees

TIKOY Aguila

SCOTT's Anson-Roo: "He was my hero."

RAYMOND Red

'Mr. Y' at the movies

From page E1

always dreamed of honoring the indies before I died." Little did we know ... and now we're just happy that we helped make that dream come true for him. Mr. Y passed on last Friday.

In December last year, for the second Indie Tribute, he gave an inspiring speech, as usual (we're getting that now with this entry), in which his unabashed love for, and encyclopedic knowledge of, cinema were quite evident.

Certainly it was no surprise that business Entertainment received not a few nominations from that tribute.

Writer-director Adolfo Alix Jr., who was attending a film fest in Singapore, sent his sympathies via Talata Mesenger. Cinemalaya founder Tikoy Aguila expressed his sadness via Facebook.

Director Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil sent an SMS, perhaps more than he'll ever remember. Marfil's "Sisters" was one of the five to be shown in the series and Mr. Y, as PDI publisher, ... and though he didn't have to, was present to welcome the director, lead star and other guests.

Marfil recalled: "My husband Martin, who is not a movie person, appears, always held him in high esteem. During a summit in Tagaytay [the Y] asked Martin if we could attend 'Sisters' at the cinemas. When I met him at the screening, I felt his genuine warmth. We honor him, a cinema and a good person."

Agatha said, simply: "Napuk ako (I cried). He was present at the first Cinemanila fest 13 years ago. I wanted to give him DVDs of some movies. Goodbye, generous."

Camera-winning filmmaker Raymond Red put it succinctly: "The country has lost an icon of journalism, but we filmmakers mourn the loss of a dedicated indie cinema supporter. However, we know that his experience will live on through the business."

Boo Marie Ibarle, Mindfi and Red's fellow honorees at the first Indie Tribute, said: "As a filmmaker, I'm greatly appreciative of the effort and expense the business has extended to the indie film community ... I feel fortunate to have met him."

And Imee Marcos-Bravo, governor, head of the Film Development Council of the Philippines: "This is a great loss to the film industry ... he was an ardent supporter, most especially of indie filmmakers."

A movie fan, too

Our Mr. Y was also a movie fan.

Twice weekly, he would walk by the film reminiscence section and ask, with a glint of mischief in his eyes, about the latest news in "Inquirer."

"Anyone in tonight this week?" he would ask. Of course, his interest really went beyond curiosity: he was very likely looking out for libel hints. But once the self-effacing Mr. Y to make even this official function seem like a game.

One thing we didn't know was that the PDI publisher had at least two direct ties to the movies. Mario Bautista, Mindfi and Red's fellow honorees at the first Indie Tribute, said: "As a filmmaker, I'm greatly appreciative of the effort and expense the business has extended to the indie film community ... I feel fortunate to have met him."

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NOW SHOWING

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST PICTURE
People
THE BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR
★★★★ "EXTRAORDINARY."

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
EXTREMELY LOUD INCREDIBLY CLOSE
TOM HANKS SANDRA BULLOCK

PERLA Bautista

ELLEN Ongkeko-Marfil

RICO Barrit

Mayor's new text mate–sounds like 'Kris'

From page E1

POWER PLANT CINEMA

THIS MEANS WAR - RE3 1:30, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE - PG13 1:10, 3:55, 6:55, 9:15	ONE FOR THE MONEY - PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55, 10:20
MONEYBALL (In 3D) - SP 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 9:25	JACK AND JILL UNOFFICIALLY YOURS PG13 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 8:00	THE DEVIL INSIDE (In 3D) - R13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THIS MEANS WAR
2 MONEYBALL (3D)
3 THE DEVIL INSIDE
4 EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE
ONE FOR THE MONEY
DRIVE IN LUXURY.
Congratulations to MARIA AMELITA DIO of Pasig City!
Grand Prize Winner of a HELIO C70 2.0L COUPE/ CONVERTIBLE
Shang-ri Mall

Lucasta Theater
CINEPLEX
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
3D DIGITAL
GATEWAY MALL
Future Cinema
THIS MEANS WAR
THE VOW
UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
SAFE HOUSE
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE
TELEVISION
DEVIL INSIDE
GHOST RIDER
KLI MALL
DEVIL INSIDE
UNOFFICIALLY
YOURS
MONEY BALL In Digital
ONE FOR THE MONEY
THE MONEY
GHOST RIDER SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE
Watch the Mr. Pilipinas Fashion Show! March 17 - 6pm | At Mall Activity Area

"MONEYBALL" IS ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST VISCERALLY EXCITING FILMS OF THE YEAR. BRAD PITT WAS EVERY BIT NOMINEE."
BRAD PITT
MONEYBALL
JONAH HILL PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
OPENS TODAY
SONY

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE
1 2 3 4 5

NEWPORT CINEMAS
Resorts World Manila
1 EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE 10:05am, 12:35pm, 3:05pm, 5:35pm, 8:05pm, 10:35pm, 12:50am
2 MONEYBALL in 3D 9:15am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm, 12:15am
3 DEVIL INSIDE 9:10am, 11:25am, 1:40pm, 4:10pm, 6:40pm, 9:10pm, 11:50pm
4 UNOFFICIALLY YOURS 9:30am, 11:45am, 1:55pm
THIS MEANS WAR 10:30pm, 12:40pm, 2:45pm, 4:55pm, 7:05pm, 9:15pm, 11:25pm

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK
THE DEVIL INSIDE
FOUND FOOTAGE
R-13

OPENS MARCH 9
JOHN CARTER
IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D AND IMAX 3D

SEA LUCIA MALL
THEATRE
3D SILVER SCREEN DIGITAL SURROUND EX
THIS MEANS WAR
JACK AND JILL
REDEMPTION
THE VOW
ONE FOR THE MONEY
THE DEVIL INSIDE
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE
UNOFFICIALLY YOURS
GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE
MONEYBALL in 2D

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
1 SAFE HOUSE
2 JOHN CARTER
3 DEVIL INSIDE
4 EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE
Digital 6 Cinema
MONEY BALL
5 THIS MEANS WAR
Vera 7 Cinema
JOHN CARTER

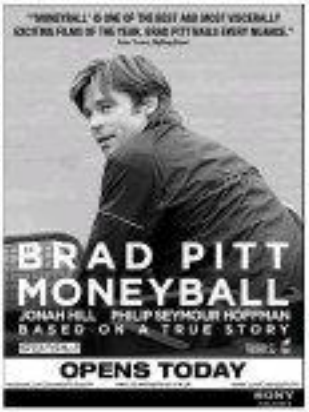
Institution At pag-dating sa mga patoray klasing liqour i come from a family na very conservative talaga, at lumaki ako sa ng daddy ko ang bawal bisa to at bisyo-an. So ako, depende po talaga sa isa." (Bonded like a sis, but that was a text

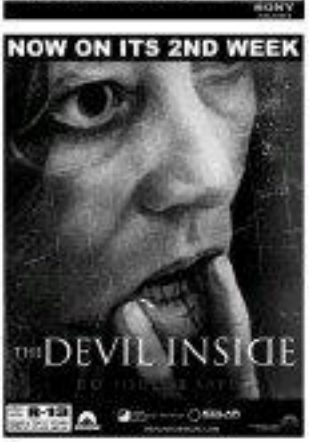
► Christine Reyes on rumors that he's meandering in Pyle: "Hearing so long ako 'yun. Di ko po alam yung actual offer. Pero right now, I'm committed to my GMA-7 contract until August. Again, dun sa offer, I received none ... Tingnan natin what is the best answer for me and my future." (Cheers! Cover's ROAD ...)

► Bubot Padilla, asked why he doesn't seem to age: "Importante kasi yung may mag-make up!" (Smile and be sure you pink'nas.)

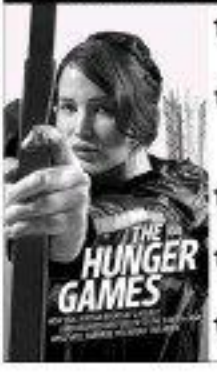
► Mel Tiangco, asked why her relationship with Mike Enriquez never blos-somed: "Eh, he's not my type! Ha-ha!" (Eh, a fine feeling na'ed?)

► Crystal Mercado, asked about the secret of her mid-drift: "Bonbon Gutierrez 'Yung magkaiyan! Aunt, kasi ang mga



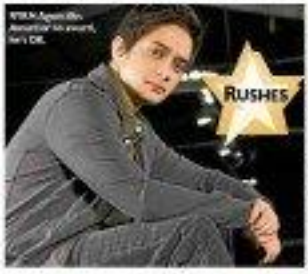


THE MOST-ANTICIPATED MOVIE OF THE YEAR



- Voted by MTV Entertainment Weekly and fans worldwide as "The Most Anticipated Movie of 2012" ahead of 'Breaking Dawn Part 2,' 'Batman: The Dark Knight Rises' and 'The Hobbit'. Source: MTV.com
- Online ticketing site Fandango reports that the Advance Ticket sales of Hunger Games that started Wednesday (Feb. 22) broke all sales records in their 12-year history, toppling blockbuster movies like 'Iron Man,' 'Transformers' and hearing record holder 'The Twilight Saga: Eclipse' to become #1 Top Seller. Source: Yahoo! Finance
- The Hunger Games books were completely sold-out for months at various book stores nationwide. Source: National Bookstore, Fully Booked and Power Books
- Analyst Matthew Harrigan of Wunderlich Securities says "Hunger Games could become the biggest movie of the year and may gross more than $600 million worldwide". Harrigan recommends buying Lionsgate stock. Source: Bloomberg
- The Hunger Games will open above the first Twilight ($68.6 million in three days), and should have one of the best launches ever in March. Source: Box Office Mojo

Mayor's new text mate–sounds like 'Kris'



By the Entertainment Staff

MAKATI Mayor Junjun Binay is said to have found a new text mate. A media sage Binay has open only for a pretty singer-actress (who has just cooled off with her beau) and is very much available.

Coincidentally, the object of the mayor's affection has practiced playing chopsticks onstage. Binay is a widower with four young children.

Kris Aquino was once linked to Binay in purely romantic. Coincidentally again, the new girl shares the TV host's name—with a slight change in spelling. Plus, she enters boss a show his political clue as well.

MVP-GMA merger?

Rumors of TV5 boss Manny V. Pangilinan's attempt to buy GMA 7 continues to steam up. Mr. Inves. Asked whether MVP was indeed eyeing his network, Yuuson turned to Felipe L. Gozon, quipped: "Only MVP can properly answer this question."

Asked point-blank if MVP had made an offer and if he had accepted, Fil-replied, simply: "No."

Love-turned-hate team

As they say, familiarity breeds contempt. Lovey-dovey actress-comedienne, Betty Starlet and Hubby Aww, now have mark-ink of's guts.

Company execs are in a quandary. They are building up PLand 10Ann a love team, when they are more of a hate tandem.

A birds says 10A can't stand the overbearing ways of BS who is notorious for being a prima donna. 10A allow has to suffer in silence while BS throws her weight around.

It can also be because 10A thinks he's prettier than BS, a veritable rival for gorgeous boys who hang out in the studio.

Peace offering

This popular love team almost broke up. Resentful Starlet went ballistic because Hubby-to-be Hunk was late for their date.

"BS threw 100 out of the studio," said an insider. Screamed, BS almost called it quits.

Sensing trouble, BS suddenly had a change of heart and sent 10A a very expensive gift—a toy for a big boy that set her back by hundreds of thousands. Yup, she's a big one.

Strike two

Sweet love cried foulers when Dashing Beau left her...not for another girl accepted, but for Finishing Guy.

SO he found love anew in Cute Hunk. Problem is, CH has long been m. moved as a closet case. All is upsetting the still-safe sight because she's much too in love to see.

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed her weekend's TV guesting (and why we are stirred, if we are stirred):

• Former GMA Prince Wilma Galvante on reconciling with Annabelle Rama: "*Inisabi ng aaman every time, all the time. Ever since, walang personalan. Sa personal level, we're good people.*"

ABC-5 Photos

ANGELICOPTER has fallen out of grace.

closed people can be less than friendly at work. Just don't.

• Annabelle Rama, asked what the second most about Wilma Galvante: "Kasama ko sa Kamay Ang Kabuhayan noong si ailbert wlyn. Halos every day nandoon ako sa Kamay. Ang-kwentuhan kami. Kumbaliktad ang para sa isang tsismosa at ako wala na akong sa GMA." (The person's just had to be taken out the equation. Got that.)

• Grace Lee-on announcing that she's the reason Angelicopter was booted from Magic 89.9: "Ang-inisan ayoko ako kung-anak ayaw na gawaan ko iyan dahil I feel guilty feel... This happened before I died Priest done ... and let me be clear, enemy ayaw ako. - Sa letter in the-mine about me-hating the President ... that is so-delicate-woman. I think nakinig-doon sayo lumot ayaw-kung ayaw na nalaga ka na-usuhin with-angelicopter's." Black, chika. This is the-epitome of hating. (Grey) lady like.)

• Rita Avila on Judy Ann Santos: "Mot ko pa ayo feeling ko po mahusi ayo at makinabot ang puso at saka mura-an akong magmahal." (Mixed-up-ding-naglaro.)

• Alice Mahusay, asked if there's a possibility that she'd get back together with ex-husband Mikoto: "I don't know! Mo-sinong-nagbi-hope at nanalalanda na baka ang-end-ing-nang-ayo-no. Who knows? I'm not-seeing anybody, and as far as I know—and I hope till Cha day—wala pa rin ayong-mal-Rita. Bayan ang importante dito magpendo kung-nagyon nanon-si magpinda 'yung pakinagyo ayaw ko ng-ano-ano. Happy na ako dun. "(Ironian? Just-cutie-lamb here!)

• Ryan Agoncillo on being nominated best actor for "My House Husband" in the coming Star Awards: "Siyempre nagaward, si 'di OO! Ikaw lamb, ayan Jang." (Promise!)

• Ami Muhoz, asked if she's willing to do daring roles: "Hmm for-naman po ang mga

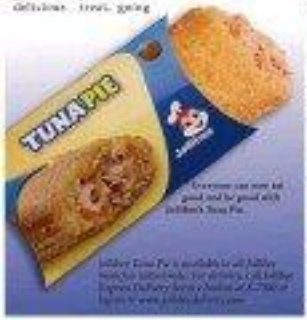
Enjoy a delectable, guilt-free treat this Lenten season with
JOLLIBEE TUNAPIE

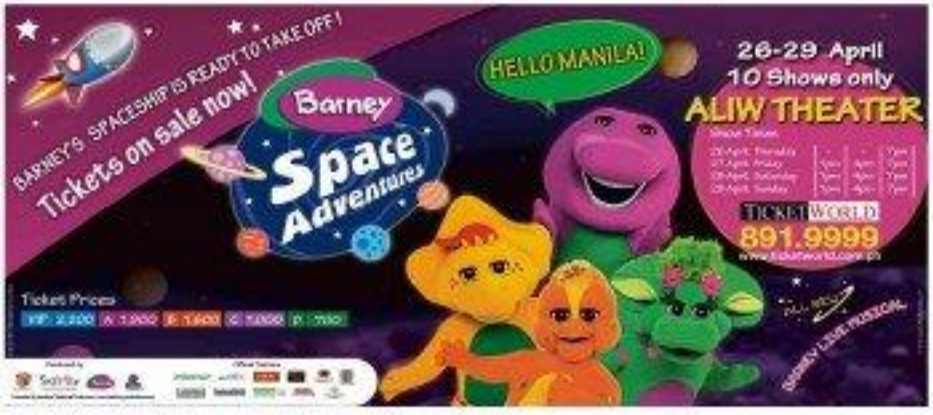
Looking for a great-tasting yet guilt-free snack this Lenten season? Look no more because the Jollibee Tuna Pie is back!

Bite into the goodness of the Jollibee Tuna Pie made with generous filling of chunky tuna flakes, peppery sauce and an assortment of vegetables, encased in a crust and cooked to a golden crisp. With this delicious treat, going meatless does not need to be bland and boring.

The Jollibee Tuna Pie can now be enjoyed solo for as less as P35, or as a value meal with a regular-sized soft drink at P45.

The Jollibee Tuna Pie is available only for a limited time, so hurry to the nearest Jollibee branch now to get your hands on this heavenly treat!





PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

47th Anvil Awards

Disciplined process of multi-sectoral board of jurors behind Anvil choices

Hard-working and dedicated — these best describe the jurors of the 47th Anvil awards who willingly shared their time and expertise to review this year's entries and ensure that their choices are truly the cream of this year's Anvil crop.

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) received a total of 205 entries, thanks to the encouraging efforts in conducting a seminar on how to prepare the documentary. That definitely helped lessen the incidence of entries failing to makes beyond screening.

But it is also a fact that the entries are getting better every year. There's really such a wealth of new, innovative and creative ideas as well as admirable ways to create positive and significant impacts on the targeted stakeholder groups as presented in the entries.

Incidentally too, the new media entries — multimedia and digital — are catching up and have actually opened new significant sub-categories, requiring a new team of skilled jurors for the first time ever before and still to present whenever the media, content rules.

Of the 205, only 161 entries in the public relations (PR) programs category and 122 PR audit entries moved over to the jurors, after the initial screening made by a separate panel of experts who validated accredited PR professionals or APRs. The jurors were over the moon during the Orientation break and several inch met found on the crotch.

The 13 PR team jurors met on June 20 to 21 at PICC through to Pasay while the 15 PR program jurors convened for follow-up fun. The jurors have already been grouped into smaller teams to whom specific sub-categories were assigned. The six team members were tasked to give the sub-entries the chance to capture the highest group the ranking of merits randomly assigned to each division.

The official auditor, Resurreccion & Company (SGV), was on hand to collect the scores and using standard deviation, counted out the ranking, as some jurors tended to be more generous and to their scores while others were more conservative. This has been the SOP ever since Secretary Gregorio Pulhuanga introduced a two years ago when he was asked to draw the secret records for the PR Programs Committee.

More action during the PR Programs deliberations.

At the outset, the deliberations, the jurors were conscious of their responsibility to really scrutinize the entries and see just how consumers glory packaging and appreciate the ad, persons and the results the PR programs sought to achieve and deliver, as well as the reasoning of the creative and innovative ways of accomplishing the core of the PR tools.

Among the factors they considered in their deliberations were:

- a compelling and common idea or strategy on which the program is anchored and how this is consistently applied throughout the campaign;
- a concise and determined effort to help the target stakeholder achieve aim to transform or grow the target building purposes;
- significant partnerships that allowed to enable greater collaboration to sweep the program through;
- measurable impact that clearly benefited target stakeholders while enhancing reputation of companies involved and reinforcing their competitive relationship with each stakeholders;
- elements coherently woven to drive home key messages to intended stakeholders; and
- the alignment of the PR program with the organization's business model, giving the communications effort more credibility and believability.

The finalists are to devise the most outstanding among the entries that topped the finalists' rank. In the PR Week category, the jurors agreed to name three recipients of the Bronze Anvil. But for the Grand Anvil, the jurors took some more time deliberating. The potential deadlock was avoided when the jurors agreed to let this year's chair make the final decision based on the inputs they gave. Secretary Pulhuanga obliged. And it took him seconds of five weeks to arrive at a decision. With his name as secretary come his humble service that he explained in a letter he sent to the PRSP Anvil committee.

Indeed, it is this disciplined process, implemented strictly by a board of respectable and highly credible experts from the Media, academe, government, civil society and the PR industry which has lent prestige to the much-coveted Anvil Awards. Eyes de Guzman, APR and Ed Thotongco, APR

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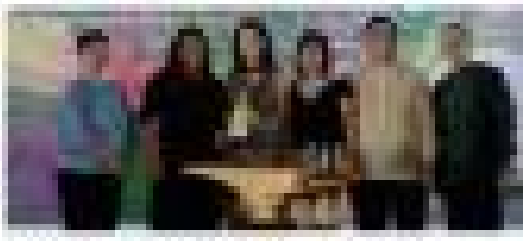
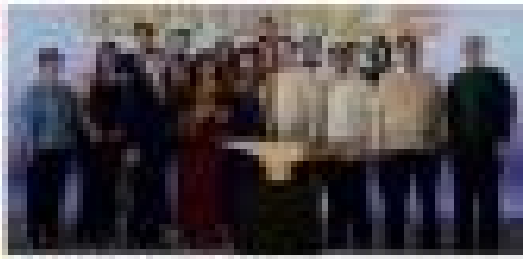
Anvil Award of Excellence

Anvil Bronze Award



Anvil Award of Excellence



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47th Anvil Awards

2011-2012 PRSP Officers, Board of Directors and Advisers

Canon launches the world's fastest full-frame DSLR

Canon recently announced the launch of the new EOS-1D X, the ultimate professional Digital SLR (DSLR) camera designed to support any photographic application and shooting demand.

Accompanying the EOS-1D X are two new accessories to further expand the professional EOS System: the WFT-E6 wireless file transmitter and GPS-E1 GPS receiver.

The technological breakthrough in the EOS-1D X takes a giant leap ahead of previous professional EOS DSLR models such as EOS-1Ds Mark III and EOS-1D Mark IV. Sharpness and improving the class-leading features of its predecessors, the EOS-1D X sports a full-frame 35mm 18.1-megapixel CMOS sensor with a shooting speed of up to 14 frames per second (fps), and is powered by the all-new DualDIGIC 5+ processor.

Developed with careful research on the needs of professional photographers around the world, the EOS-1D X expands the choice of photographic in any scenario, without compromising resolution, image quality, or continuous shooting speed.

Stunning Image Quality

The EOS-1D X's new 35mm full-frame CMOS sensor has approximately 18.1 effective megapixels, featuring a superior signal to noise (S/N) ratio and a pixel pitch of 6.95?m square pixels (compared to the EOS-1D Mark IV's 5.77?m square pixels). The larger pixel and sensor size enhances light gathering efficiency and faithfully captures the mood of the original scene with minimal noise.

Seventeen times faster than the DIGIC 4 processor used in the current EOS series, the EOS-1D X's all-new DualDIGIC 5+ processor boasts ultra high speed processing to produce superior-detailed image quality, even at high ISO settings.

Representing a two-step improvement in noise reduction, images shot at ISO 51,200 using the EOS-1D X are comparable to ISO 12,800 images shot with the EOS-1D Mark IV. This can be further expanded to ISO 204,800. With such a wide range of ISO settings, professionals can now eliminate motion blur in almost any kind of situation and still achieve ultra-low noise quality.

Other improvements in the EOS-1D X's imaging capabilities include real-time chromatic aberration correction, hi-esteem HDR processing, lens distortion correction (using in-camera RAW processing) and multiple exposures.

Innovative AE/AF System

The EOS-1D X features a next-generation Auto Focus (AF) system sporting 61-Point High Density Reticular AF (41 cross-type points). This AF system offers wide auto focus coverage with high precision and enhanced subject tracking capability.

With the conventional AF system, the EOS-1D Mark IV utilizes 39 f/2.8 sensitive cross-type sensors, which restrict usage to only f/2.8 or brighter lenses to achieve finest AF. The EOS-1D X enhances this by utilizing 41 f/5.6 sensitive cross-type sensors, and professionals can now use f/4.0 lenses to achieve the same AF speed as an f/2.8 lens on the EOS-1D Mark IV.

In other words, even with a 1.4X extender, an f/2.8 lens will still be able to utilize any of these 41 cross-type sensors. For f/2.8 lenses, there are 5 dual cross-type sensors in the center that enhance high precision AF, exceeding previous EOS-1D series with f/2.8 lenses. To top it off, there are also 21 cross-type sensors in the middle that are f/5.6 sensitive. The technological advancement in the EOS-1D X dimensionally expands focusing accuracy to support a larger range of f/5.6 and f/2.8 lenses.

At the heart of the new AF unit is the new EOS iSA (Intelligent Subject Analysis) System that employs a 100,000-pixel RGB Metering Sensor and AI-dedicated DIGIC 4 image processor. This innovation recognizes a subject's color and face to make EOS iTR (Intelligent Tracking and Recognition) AF possible, offering reliable and continuous tracking of the subject. It is also able to focus better in darker places compared to the camera's AF system.

Unprecedented High-speed Performance

The EOS-1D X offers more response to match a sports photographer's reflexes, with the maximum shutter release lag reduced to 36 milliseconds (from 48 milliseconds in the EOS-1D Mark IV).

In the One-Shot AF and AI Servo AF/IS modes, a maximum continuous shooting speed of 12 fps is available. Photographers also have the option to activate the super high-speed continuous shooting mode to increase shooting speeds to 14 fps.

A new mirror mechanism in the EOS-1D X known as the Quad Action Mirror Stopper, equipped with separate bounce lock

CANON 54

15 CANON IN THE PHILIPPINES

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THANK YOU!

To the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, for recognizing the efforts we put into Canon PhotoMarathon.

To our partners, for your continued commitment to serve our ever growing market.

To our brand ambassadors, for your friendship and dedication towards Canon photography.

AND MORE...

To you, our fellow Filipinos, for welcoming Canon into your lives as wholeheartedly.

This award goes out to you.

With much love and gratitude,
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

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47th Anvil Awards

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Messages

MALACAÑANG PALACE
MANILA

I send my warmest congratulations to the winners of the 2011 Anvil Awards, organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

This tonight's event marks the 47th year of the annual Anvil Awards as a testament to the PRSP's commitment to the continued professionalization of public relations in the country. Indeed, your organization has consistently honored relevant PR programs that serve not only corporate goals but also public and national interests. It is my hope that this yearly recognition will continue to challenge you to uphold the highest ethical standards in your profession and advance sustainable, responsive, innovative, and effective PR practices in the service of the Filipino people.

We live in an era illuminated by the daylight of renewal and fueled by our collective desire for change. Let us sustain the momentum of our drive for lasting reform by constantly striving for excellence in our endeavors. Guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and social justice, we can realize our dream of an equitable and prosperous Philippines.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
Malacañang, Manila

I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations to the winners in the 47th Anvil Awards.

Being the symbol of Excellence in public relations practice in the Philippines, I have no doubt that the Anvil is an award and an honor that is coveted by the PR practitioners and professionals in the country.

I salute the officers and members of the PRSP, the organizers of this year's 47th Anvil Awards who have carefully worked to ensure faithful adherence to the Anvil tradition of excellence and professional integrity.

Your commitment to the improvement of the public relations profession in this country that contributes to no small way to the countries progress and stability, is certainly commendable.

Again, congratulations and more power to PRSP.

Mabuhay!

EDUARDO ERMITA
Executive Secretary

I send my warmest greetings to the composers who participated in the 47th Anvil Awards Competition.

Your commitment and dedication - as reflected in the various public relations (PR) programs and tools you entered in this year's contest - have largely contributed to the continuing growth and professionalization of PR practice in our country.

We are happy to note that through the years the Anvil has continually inspired new, creative organizations to develop and implement creative and engaging programs addressed to key stakeholders – campaigns compelling enough that create real positives in our and reshaping perceptions that allow the companies it achieves we not only reputation-building or stakeholder-affirming objectives, but ultimately growth business goals.

But beyond the recognition that the Anvil provides, we hope that this annual activity of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines will also serve as a learning platform where best practices are shared and professional networks are broadened.

I'm those who failed to make the grade, we encourage you to get back here PRSP to help you in the next round of competition. For those who brought home Anvil Awards, Excellence, Bronze and Grand awards, I extend my most sincere congratulations and deepest appreciation.

RAUL M. GONZALEZ, ATTY.
Secretary
Public Relations Society of the Philippines

I commend the officers and members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines as well as this year's Anvil Awards Committee for meeting the hard and renowned Philippine Anvil Awards in recognition of distinction and excellence in the public relations profession.

The various programs and tools submitted to the competition reflect the convincing and bold approaches to public relations. These are, indeed, uplifting - and in this mind and in this spirit, as these and

to empower the Filipino to make his life better. The diversity of ideas and the freshness of medium, all made it doubly difficult for the jurors to select the best works for this year's Anvil Awards.

It was truly a challenging and a rewarding learning experience for all of us in the Board of Jurors. I must confess that we had been using deciding on which should get the top awards, considering that most are deserving.

To the winners in the 47th Anvil Awards and to all the participants: Congratulations for truly advancing the practice of public relations in this country!

CAESAR P. DULAY, M.D., M.B.A.
Undersecretary
Chairman, Board of Jurors
Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning

I'd like to thank and congratulate all the participants and winners in this year's Anvil Awards for their continuous commitment to this year's competition. The judging and screening processes were difficult because the entries were particularly prepared and of consistently high quality. Participants have stepped up their game. Showing forward, the Anvil Awards must raise the bar. But this, I suppose, is a sign of our times. These days, people are deluged by all sorts of information from a bewildering array of sources and channels. Social media has changed the rules of the communications game. It takes more creativity and insight to stand out in the midst of this noisy marketplace of ideas. That kind of excellent work is very much in evidence in this year's crop of Anvil finalists. Again, my sincerest thanks and congratulations!

RAMON R. JIMENEZ
Chairman
47th Anvil Awards Committee

2012-2013 PRSP OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS DURING THEIR OATHTAKING

(L-R) Administering officer, Former Isabela Governor Grace H. Padaca, President - John V. Raja, Division Head, Corporate Brand and Communications of Bayan Telecommunications, Inc.; VP-Internal - Jorge Miguel T. Mesa, APR, Head, Corporate Communications, HR and Public Affairs of Ayala Land, Inc.; Secretary - Maria Lourdes L. Espino, APR, Corporate Communications Manager and Spokesperson of Total (Philippines) Corporation; Internal Auditor - Claire De Leon-Pajo, Senior Manager for External Affairs of United Laboratories, Inc.; Director - Joyli B. Bascon, Managing Director of Clas Events Management; Treasurer - Ms. Yolanda C. Crisanto, Head, Corporate Communications Division of Globe Telecom, Inc.; Adviser - Eduardo S. Alcaraz, APR, President, ESA Consultants; Adviser - Jones T. Campos, APR, CEO of Jones PR; JT Campos Corporation; Adviser - Mauricio J. Edrolin, Jr., APR, Public Relations Consultant; Office of the Governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; VP-Ex-oficio - Roman R. Ibarra, Head, Public Affairs Group of Smart Communications, Inc., and Immediate Past President - Butch S. Raquel, APR, Consultant to the Chairman and CEO for Corporate Communications, GMA Network, Inc.

47th Anvil Awards Committee

(Standing L-R) Bernard G. Bagaman, APR, Resins, Inc.; Angelina G. Dobis, Confederation of Non Stock Savings and Loan Association, Inc.; Eduardo S. Alcaraz, APR, ESA Consultants; Ronnel R. Isberto, Smart Communications, Inc.; Cielo S. Maniago, Cemex Philippines; Jones T. Campos, APR, Jones PR; JT Campos Corporation; Joji B. Bascon, Clas Events Management; (Seated L-R) Maria Lourdes L. Espino, APR, Total (Philippines) Corporation; Rochelle Quintos-Alfaro, Philflex Mining Corporation; Lourdes S. de Guzman, Quota International; Endo Hoshi-Bailey, Lopez Group Foundation, Inc.; and Clarrabin G. Ocampo-Mejico, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Edge U. Tiemsoque, APR, Nestle Philippines, Inc.

Janice Teoxi, marinpolitoteoks.com

Director - Angelina H. Dobson, PR and Communication Consultant

Director - Joseph A Fernandez, Corporate Affairs Manager of Mead Johnson Nutrition (Philippines), Inc.

Metrobank Group Reaps Eight Anvils

The Metrobank Group of Companies took home a total of eight (8) Anvils that earned it the Gold Awards for the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) held last February 29, 2012 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel Mandaluyong City. Metrobank Foundation (MBFI), Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), and affiliate Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation received a total of four (4) Anvil Awards in Excellence and four (4) Anvil Awards of Merit.

Dubbed as the Oscars of the public relations industry in the Philippines, the Anvil is given to outstanding public relations programs and tools that inform and promote public interest, good values, and genuine service to the community and society.

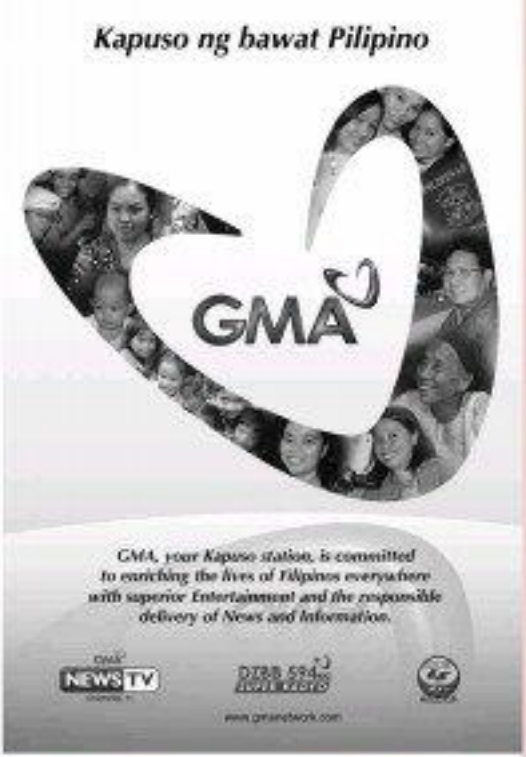
MBFI was awarded with an Anvil Award of Excellence for the **2011 Metrobank Math Challenge (MMC)** – a nationwide competition that encourages students to love and showcase the math skills of Filipino students in an atmosphere of friendly competition while teaching them the values of hard work, discipline and team spirit. Another program awarded with an Anvil Award of Merit is the **2011 Metrobank Art & Design Excellence (MADE) Art Fusion: Lenticular and Traveling Exhibit**, aimed for its role in increasing awareness and promoting appreciation on the role of arts in Philippine society among targeted audience and institutions – arts and design students, teachers and diplomats, also awarded with an Anvil Award of Merit is the **Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation 2010 Global Annual Reports** that effectively organized a slew of strategic philanthropy with programs uplifting inspiration for others to become socially involved in the community at the same time showcasing the bank's notable performance in the industry. MDH, on the other hand, was awarded an Anvil Award of Excellence for their program **"Going Green: MDH's Journey to Inspiring a Green Work Environment"** aimed at empowering employees and staff to become green advocates, cultivating a green culture within the hospital thereby contributing to environmental conservation and protection. Another Anvil Award of Excellence was bestowed for the program entitled **"Inspiring Excellence in Pursuit of Quality: MDH's Journey towards a Culture of Excellence"** aimed in promoting a culture of excellence in the hospital through internal recognition, continual improvement measures, internal and international accreditations, and maximizing external communications, being integral in the promotion of quality healthcare service delivery. In addition, an Anvil Award of Merit was given to the program **"Healing Magazine Making Waves"** which provided venues for better care health and wellness among public school children through collaborative efforts and partnerships with other external institutions. MDH is the only hospital awarded in making a Anvil winners since 2012.

Meanwhile, Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, an affiliate of the Metrobank Group, also wins an Anvil Award of Excellence for its Toyota Dare Advantage Campaign, and an Anvil Award of Merit for 2011 Toyota Vios Test Road Outstanding Leaders and Team Members (MVLT).

"We are grateful for our programs that have been recognized, a testament to our commitment of valuing excellence in everything we do," said MBFI and MDH President Antonio Santiagudo. "To be rewarded with an Anvil means you are doing an outstanding work that promotes community service and benefits your employees which serves as an inspiration for us to continue to be good for our stakeholders," he continued.

MBFI, as the corporate social responsibility arm of the Metrobank Group has been winning Anvil awards since 1991. To date, it has won 47 Anvil awards for its various programs and public relations tools, including this most recently Grand Anvil gaining the second as the first corporate foundation to win a back-to-back Grand Anvil (2009 and 2012) in the history of the Anvil Awards.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES



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Manila Doctors Hospital Bags 3 Anvils for 3rd Year

Manila Doctors Hospital's program owners and execs posed for a photo together with the MDH Senior Management Team after the 43rd Anvil awarding ceremonies. Leading the team's MDH President Mr. Antonio Sabrepa's (3rd from left), MDH Hospital Director Jose Pilar Herrera Rivera (5th from left), MDH SVP for Medical Affairs Dr. Dante Morales (5th from left), MDH Medical Director Dr. Mario Juco (4th from left), and MDH Administrator Director Dr. Nina Ho Kau (5th from left).

Three of Manila Doctors Hospital's (MDH) environmental, health, and corporate social responsibility efforts have been named awardees in the recently-concluded 43rd Anvil Awards. The awarding ceremonies were held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The MDH program "Inspiring Excellence in Pursuit of Quality: Manila Doctors Hospital's Journey towards a Culture of Excellence" was cited for instilling a culture of excellence in the hospital, so that all staff members participate in the effort to provide quality healthcare service delivery. It received an Anvil Award of Excellence during the awarding ceremonies.

Meanwhile, two of MDH's CSR projects, namely the Young Green Manila Doctors Hospital's Journey to Inspiring a Green Work Environment and the "Helping Magenta Dust as Seas: A Comprehensive Oral Health Program for Grade 2 Students of Estefania Delos Santos Elementary School-EDSES in Pasig City, Manila" were also recognized during the said ceremonies. The former, which was conferred an Anvil Award of Excellence, was recognized for empowering its employees and staff to be green advocates cultivating the green culture thereby conserving the environment by doing their part within their workstations; the latter provided venues for better oral health and access among public school children through collaborative efforts and partnerships with other external institutions. The program was awarded an Anvil Award of Merit during the ceremonies.

Meanwhile, Metrobank Foundation, Inc., majority owner of Manila Doctors Hospital, also bagged more Anvil awards in the same awarding ceremony. The Metrobank Math Challenge (MMC) won the Anvil Award of Excellence. It was cited for providing a challenging venue and friendly atmosphere for the Filipino youth to showcase their mathematical skills and imbibe the values of hard work, discipline, and team spirit". The Metrobank Foundation also received the Anvil Award of Merit for the 2010 Metrobank Arts & Design Excellence (MADE) Art Expo Lecture and Traveling Exhibit. The MADE Art Expo was cited "for its role in increasing awareness and promoting appreciation on the role of arts in Philippine society among targeted audiences and institutions / individuals (students, teachers and diplomats)". An Anvil Award of Merit is also received for the 2010 Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation Unified Annual Report which was cited "for effectively integrating their story of strategic philanthropy with program-level reporting dispersion for others to become socially involved in the community".

The Anvil Award is the most prestigious award conferred to institutions practicing effective public relations campaigns and activities. It is organized annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

MDH is the ONLY healthcare provider in the country to be recognized during the 43th Anvil Awards, a recurring feat of the hospital since 2010's Anvil awarding ceremonies.

Canon launches the world's fastest full-frame DSLR

Rampage III

wonderwhite and durable balconies, colours never become lost lustly. The new machine gun-like burst and high-speed drive, so that photographers will never miss any high-speed action.

Advanced EOS Movie

Already highly-regarded for its high-quality images, low noise and cinematic looks, EOS Movie makes another leap forward with the EOS 1D X. With the new Dual DIGIC 5+ processor and CMOS sensor's new drive system, the video autofocus and metering system and speed is quicker than ever before. Also, the video autofocus is remarkably reduced. This is coupled with the ability to capture high-quality images with low noise, even at high ISO speeds.

Some other new EOS Movie features in the EOS-1D X include MPEG-compliant time-code embedding, manually adjustable audio recording level settings, and recording in 0 in, TV and Manual modes. Immediate recording is also possible through the use of user-customizable function buttons on the EOS-1D X.

Users can also able to select between 4K3:1 and 8% compression methods to suit their preferred post-production workflows. 4K3:1 compression results in larger file sizes but is ideal for speedy workflows during the editing process as individual frames are not linked to each other. 8% compression offers higher compression for smaller file sizes with a similar image quality to previous models of EOS Movie.

To meet professionals' demand for long takes and synchronizing multiple videos, video file sizes that exceed 4GB (the maximum size for FAT file format) are accessed seamlessly split. A new file is automatically created and recording continues without user interruption.

Enhanced Reliability and Durability

The EOS-1D X uses a completely new electro-mic, featuring carbon fiber shutter blades that are lightweight and more rigid, with a life span of up to 400,000 cycles assured. Also new in the EOS-1D series is an all-new mirror box unit. This new mechanism can provide high-speed drive, so that photographers will never miss any high-speed action.

Wireless and GPS Accessories

For image transfers up to three times faster than conventional wireless methods, the EOS-1D X can be coupled with the WFT-E6, a dedicated wireless file transmitter that is compatible with wireless LAN (IEEE802.11n).

The WFT-E6 is more compact and lightweight than the WFT-E2 II, and it is as dust-proof and water-resistant as the EOS-1D X. With the Wireless File Sending function, up to 10 EOS-1D X cameras can be paired.

The GPS-E1 is a compact GPS receiver that automatically adds location information to the EXIF data of images shot by the EOS-1D X. A dedicated setup application will also upgrade the GPS-E1, allowing users to synchronize shooting locations with ease.

All in all, the EOS-1D X is the world's fastest full-frame DSLR to date, delivering professional photographic excellence and performance.

To find out more about the Canon EOS-1DX or other Canon products, please visit www.canon.com.ph. Get the latest news and updates from Canon through www.canon.com.ph/imagenation, and by following Canon on Facebook, "Canon Digital Camera Philippines", or Twitter, "Canon_Camera_PH."

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

VISION

Professional development of individual members. Recognition of high craftsmanship and its strategic role in management. Favorable social environment. Proactive involvement in issues, concerns and demands of public existence and communication.

MISSION

Serve the country towards progress while preserving its precious heritage and culture; serve as the forerunner in the best of the abilities guided only by the highest ethical standards; and lead the way in the development, refinement and dissemination of knowledge and skills of the profession in the Asia-Pacific Region.

THE ANVIL

The ANVIL is the symbol of Excellence in public relations in the Philippines, awarded by a distinguished multi-sectoral jury to outstanding public relations programs and tools designed and implemented during the previous year.

The Anvil Awards competition is conducted annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines.

The Anvil symbolizes excellence and quality. No award is given unless the standards are met.

There are four award levels:

ANVIL AWARD OF MERIT
ANVIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
BRONZE ANVIL AWARD
and the
GRAND ANVIL AWARD

PRU LIFE U.K.

One of the leading life insurance companies in the country, Pru Life UK maximizes the legacy of financial strength gained for over 160 years by its British parent company, Prudential plc, a trusted name to generations of families – from Victorian Britain to families of victims of the Titanic and veterans of World War II. With 16 years of excellent operations in the Philippines, Pru Life UK sustains a reputation of integrity and reliability.

Excellence, care, collaboration and innovation are in the core of Pru Life UK. In joining the Anvil brigade for the first time, the Company was recognized for its efforts in propagating financial literacy, public service and brand awareness.

A culture of victory

Anvil Awards were awarded to the Pru Life UK Free MRT Ride program that provided 75,000 free rides to MRT commuters during the Company's 15th anniversary celebration, and to the Pru Life UK Insurance Summit, an activation video depicting the concepts of excellent and health insurance in an entertaining way.

Pru Life UK. Always Listening. Always Understanding.

Canon wins Two Anvil Awards

Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc. won two Anvil awards for its programs. Canon GreenNation and Canon PhotoMarathon last 24 February 2012 at the Anvil Awards night held at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

Entered under the category of Public Relations Programs for Environment, Science & Technology Sustainable Development, the Canon GreenNation Program received the Anvil Award of Merit for successfully expanding from a collection program for Canon ink cartridges and toners to a complete ecological program, partnering with other organizations and supporting various conservation initiatives. Among the number of these successful efforts is the Sagip Agila project in partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation and Environmental Education program with the Bliss Earth Foundation.

The Canon PhotoMarathon was awarded the Anvil Award of Merit under the category PR Programs - Specific Stakeholders Constituency for leading budding and professional photographers alike to showcase their talents through a friendly competition. The Canon PhotoMarathon is annually initiated by Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc. to continuously delight Filipino photographers and has grown steadily over the years from 200 participants to a staggering 2,000 in 2011. Canon's series of on-the-spot photo contests has gained a fan base all on its own, thanks to the challenge's competitive but fun atmosphere of camaraderie.

Dubbed as the Oscars of Public Relations in the Philippines, The Anvil is given annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) to outstanding public relations programs and tools that reflect and promote public interest, good values, and genuine service to the community and society.

L-R: (First row) Ernalou Aseo-Lualhati - Marketing Communications Manager for ICP Division of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Jill Santiago - Marketing Manager for CUP Division of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Harvey Cleto, Audrey Agustin - President of Agustin Architects, Inc. and Margarita Encinas - Corporate Communications Manager of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc.
(Second Row) Ted Esguerra of L. Esguerra Concepts, Bianca Bunye-Esguerra - Corporate Communications Marketing Supervisor for Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Jojo Bolinao - Director for SBU of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Wig Bynauan - Canon Brand Ambassador, Catherine Gonzalez - Director of Bliss Earth Foundation, Arlene Imperial - 2011 Phi Earth Award Individual Awardee - PR & Special Event Director of L. Esguerra Concepts, Alice Chng - President of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Doug Seow - Vice President and Director for ICP Division of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc., Jeanette Dela - Operations Manager of MMB Events Inc and Joel Ramirez - Asst. Marketing Communications Manager for ICP Division of Canon Marketing (Phils.), Inc.

15

Canon

Delighting You Always

Canon goes beyond the products we produce.

Canon has long been examining how the product life cycle impacts the environment. Its ongoing aim to make high-performance, functional products while minimizing the use of precious resources and eliminating waste at every stage. Canon's high-performance digital cameras, printers and copiers consume dramatically less energy and implement programs to educate and encourage environmental consciousness.

By choosing Canon, customers can participate and collectively provide a greater contribution to the earth, while enjoying excellent imaging products.

In the Philippines, Canon has implemented the Canon GreenNation campaign to promote and achieve environmental sustainability. An ink and toner collection program deployed first in various locations in the country to encourage proper disposal and conservation of waste bank into raw materials. Continuous activities focused on environmental education and ecological conservation are also engaged by Canon in partnership with Philippine Eagle Foundation and Bliss Earth Foundation.

To know more, visit http://www.canon.com.ph/environmental

Canon GreenNation

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 700 Cityfront Law Center Tower, Corporate Road corner Fort Bonifacio Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1634 Call: (632) 884-4000 Email: customer_care@canon.com.ph Web: www.canon.com.ph

Celebrating 100 Years of Nestlé in the Philippines

This year, Nestlé celebrates its 100th year in the Philippines with the theme, Kasambuhay, Habambuhay – Companion in Life, for Life. Three major activities marked the celebration:

We started 2011 by Creating Shared Value, with our Salesforce building 130 cubbies and 200 benches for our Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries, an initiative recognized as the largest carpentry lesson in the Guinness World Records.

In April, we launched our 66-second Centennial TV commercial that pays tribute to the deep relationship built over the years between Nestlé, its brands and the Filipino family.

In May, we launched our Kasambuhay Habambuhay Short Film Anthology, a 100 minute collection of 10 short films directed by seven TVC directors. The films, which celebrate the Filipino way of life, were shown for free to employees, business partners, and the general public.

These initiatives generated positive publicity and enthusiastic feedback from the general public and the media.

Canon makes consumers' "dream compact camera": PowerShot G1X

PowerShot G1X

CANON, a world leader in digital imaging, has released a new compact camera for camera enthusiasts who want nothing but the best. The compact Canon PowerShot G1X adopts powerful EOS technologies and large CMOS sensor to capture amazingly high-quality photos, for those who desire the power of an EOS camera in a smaller package.

The classic, stately look of the 14.3-megapixel PowerShot G1X says it all: this sophisticated, no-nonsense camera is designed for photography enthusiasts. Its streamlined design combines simplicity and functionality; its various controls easily accessible on an ergonomically-designed body that provides users with a good stable grip. There is even a front control dial for full manual control, and an optical viewfinder, features normally found in Digital SLRs.

According to Yoshiro Udagawa, General Manager of Canon's Digital Consumer Products Development Center One, the PowerShot G1X was born when Canon heard feedback from users who wondered when a "dream compact camera" with the CMOS sensors found in Canon's Digital SLRs would come about.

As such, the core technology powering the PowerShot G1X is a large 1.5-type CMOS sensor, designed specially for the G1X to give it the best image quality a compact could hope to achieve. Larger sensors are more sensitive and provide better pictures, and this unique CMOS sensor is over four times larger than the CMOS sensors found in most compact cameras. With its size, it is able to achieve the attractive depth-of-field background blurs that DSLRs are famous for, as well as capturing more beautiful, hand-held night photos.

Paired with this powerful CMOS sensor is a DIGIC 5 imaging processor - the same processor currently powering Canon's high-end Digital SLR cameras. The combination of CMOS sensor and DIGIC 5 allows the PowerShot G1X to take 14.3-megapixel photographs at ISO speeds of up to an incredibly high 12,800. Higher ISO speeds allow for sharper images in all kinds of conditions, such as low-light environments or when photographing fast-moving subjects. This is normally associated with image noise, but the DIGIC 5's enhanced processing power reduces noise to preserve image quality even the highest of ISO speeds.

Mr. Udagawa sums up the G1X's capabilities like this: "Basically, this is an almighty camera that has expanded the realm of shooting for scenes that you would have given up shooting before, from bright daylight to pitch dark scenes."

The DIGIC 5's ability to handle large amounts of data also results in a powerful high speed burst mode, capturing 4.5 shots per second at high quality. With this level of speed, users will be able to snap dynamic action shots with the assurance that they'll capture that one perfect frame.

To make the most of all this visual data, the PowerShot G1X can save photos in 14-bit RAW format. Common for Digital SLR cameras, the re-spected RAW format is favored by professionals because it preserves more image data, and grants more flexibility when it comes to touch-ups.

The lens built into the PowerShot G1X is a 4x zoom 28mm lens. This versatile lens is suitable for most scenarios, which takes away the hassle of changing camera lenses for different situations. When it comes to taking dynamic photographs, users can frame their shots using the 3 inch variangle LCD monitor. This adjustable monitor flips out for easy viewing at almost all angles, so users will be able to frame their shots perfectly, whether it's a high angle or low angle shot.

The PowerShot G1 X retails for Php 37,498 and comes with free 1-year warranty.

To find out more about the Canon PowerShot G1X or other Canon products, please visit www.canon.com.ph. Get the latest news and updates from Canon through www.canon.com.ph/inspiration, and by following them on Facebook, "Canon Digital Camera - Philippines," or Twitter, "Canon_CameraPH."

INQUIRER Wednesday NATIONAL

CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
DEADLINES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

HOUSE AND LOT

WANTED TO BUY

BUY / SELL / EARN ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

NOTICE OF LOSS

APARTMENT

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

LOAN & INVESTMENT

HOUSE & LOT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

LEGAL NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

need a job? Read JOB Inquirer every Sunday

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
12F Ambassador Bldg. S. Roxas, Panpan, Calamba City
Telefax Nos.: (049) 545-0192

March 07, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/establishments have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	MIKUNI RKI (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION Light Ind. Bldg., Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Takeshi Matsumoto/ Japanese	General Manager
2.	KAISER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION Lot 1, Canlubang Industrial Estate, Canlubang, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Mitsuhiro Kinoshita/ Japanese	President and Chief Executive Officer
3.	T & S LASER SOLUTIONS, INC. Unit 202, Tower 1, Serendra, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Mr. Tsutomu Kobayashi/ Japanese	Chairman of the Board
4.	MOMBO ELECTRONICS PHILS., INC. Km. 51, Brgy. Mayapa, Crossing, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Akihiro Takahashi/ Japanese	Technical Adviser
5.	MOMBO ELECTRONICS PHILS., INC. TTS-NEC Mayapa, Crossing, Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Masahiro Kawashima/ Japanese	Deputy Division General Manager
6.	SAN MIGUEL MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Cirtek Bldg., Pioneer Cor. Taguig Road, Brgy. Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City	Mr. Kuniihiko Mimoto/ Japanese	General Manager – Sales & Marketing Division
7.	TAE SUNG PHILS. INC. Lot 1, Blk. 1, PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Chung Man Woo/ Korean	Asset Manager

Any person who is of the opinion that the employment of the above mentioned foreign nationals will prejudice labor conditions in the locality may file his opposition thereto within ten (10) days from the publication of this notice.

ATTY. ROLANDO S. MARTINEZ, MD, DPSOLS
Regional Director

To view other job vacancies, interested Filipino workers may visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO). Or log on to www.peso.dole.gov

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BOHOL II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Mac-Arthur Highway, Upper Bahi
Tagbilaran City, Bohol

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bid No. 2012-02

Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II) through its duly constituted Awards Committee (BAC), invites thirty-five eligible bidders to supply and install substructure cable to cover the projects mentioned below in accordance with the following specifications:

1. Single Core, 15 kV, Overhead
2. Open No. 1 AAAC, 7 strand copper
3. Voltage rating - 15kV
4. Suitable for operation in the hot humid of sunny areas
5. Standard - Electrical standard

Bidders shall prequalify for the supply and installation of the above mentioned equipment and shall be required to submit within three (3) days of receipt of the Invitation to Bid, the following:

1. Audited financial statements stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its duly accredited and authorized institutions for the preceding calendar year;
2. Net financial contracting capacity (NFCC) computation;
3. Business tax returns per Value Added Tax (VAT) or Percentage Tax (PT) for the preceding calendar year;
4. Latest income tax return filed manually or through the Electronic Filing System (EFS) for the preceding calendar year;
5. Bank certification on its credit line; and
6. Certificate of Registration issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), as the case may be.

Interested bidders may obtain additional information and the Bidding Documents from the BAC Secretariat, Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc., Mac-Arthur Highway, Upper Bahi, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Telefax No. (038) 501-8888 or 501-8889, during office hours.

Prospective bidders may inspect the project site at their own expense and responsibility.

Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. shall post a performance security in the form of cash, manager's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit, surety bond callable on demand, or any combination thereof, in favor of Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. in the amount equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the contract price.

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MAUNLAD TRANS, INC.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

FOR CARGO VESSELS (AMOSUP/2SU)

DECK DEPARTMENT	ENGINE DEPARTMENT
MASTER	CHIEF ENGINEER
CHIEF MATE	2ND ENGINEER
2ND MATE	3RD ENGINEER
3RD MATE	4TH ENGINEER

FOR LOCAL OFFICE EMPLOYMENT

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from reputable universities or colleges. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Shipping/Manning Agency working experience is advantage
- Reliable and can work under minimal supervision

OFFICE STAFF

- Female applicants only, not more than 35 years old and single
- Proficient in Windows applications, fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written, can work long hours with minimum supervision

Interested applicants may come in business attire, fitting resume, 2x2 photo and Certificate of Employment at our office:
#23 Building, 3005 Susarino St., Barangay Poblacion, Makati City
Tel: 551-0287 / 551-0285 / 551-0282 Fax: 551-0478
POEA Accredited #nd-NCR-04251-0406 valid until June 09, 2013
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT! NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Administrative Service Department
East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
Trunk Line: 920-6401 to 07 loc. 620 / Fax: 920-6446
Email: invitation_to_bid@sss.gov.ph / Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Bid
ITB No. SSS-003 – Goods

REPLACEMENT OF SLOPED/SEGREGATIVE HANDLEBARS AND ENCLOSED CIRCUIT BREAKERS OF THE SSS MAIN BUILDING INCLUDING ZYLITYNE BUILDING

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Delivery/ Completion Period	Bid Submission/Opening of Envelopes/Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
ABC: ₱3,687,200.0 (Php 3,687,200.00) MF Bldg. - Repairs & Others	30 calendar days	March 22, 2012 10:00 a.m. 3:00p.m.	April 12, 2012 2:00 p.m. 3:00p.m.	₱3,000.00

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM now invites Bids for the above item. Delivery of the GOODS is required within the period specified above. Bidders should have completed, within Two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II - Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to bid conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of the RA 9184 of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Section 23.1 (1.2) of the IRR stating.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting 07 March 2012 up to day of the bid from the prospective submission if opening of bids from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee.

   The method of payment will be in cash (over-counter at the SSS Cashiering Department), SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form E-0. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the SSS website provided that the Bidder shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the Two (2) days before the scheduled submission and opening of Bids.
6. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the date and time specified above at the Dean Room, 13th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered at the Canlu Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City on the deadline specified above. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the ITB Clause 14.

   Bid opening will be held at the Canlu Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Ave., Diliman, Q. C. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bidders may be present and shall be liable on Double bid. Should any of the above bidder fail in or inability, his deposits shall be confiscated to the same time on the immediately succeeding business day in Section 34.
9. The SSS Bid de Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. The SSS Bid de BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify anyone for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the procurement process. Nor does SSS accept in their guarantee that all award will be made as a result of this invitation. Furthermore, the SSS reserves the right to waive any defects or formality in the bidding requirements and to the invitation and reserves the right to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.
11. For further information, please refer to:

    Bids & Awards Committee
    The Secretariat
    2F Rm. 1000, Main Bldg., East Ave., Diliman, Q.C.
    Tel # 922-2401 loc. 634/7760, 920-6401 local 1401
    Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
    Telephone number – (02) 924-7260

Atty. Jose Ma. Lourdes Rodriguez
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE Chairman

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Our company, hereby inform the public that **ROLANDO P. MALVAR** was elected as the new member of the Board of **Maunlad Trans, Inc. effective March 09, 2009.**

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISABELA ELECTRIC COMPANY INCORPORATED AND MISAMIS ORIENTAL-ITEC ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. RELATED THERETO, WITH PRAYER FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ISABELA ELECTRIC COMPANY INCORPORATED (IECO),
Applicant.

x-----x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on February 6, 2012, Isabela Electric Company Incorporated (IECO) filed an application for approval of the Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Misamis Oriental-ITEC Electric Company Inc. (MORESCO I), with prayer for the issuance of provisional authority.

The said application, docketed as ERC Case No. 2012-___ MC, alleges, among others, that:

1. IECO is a duly organized and existing corporation with principal office at ___, Philippines, while MORESCO I is a duly organized and existing corporation with principal office at ___, Philippines;

2. Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations, IECO respectfully submits to the Commission for its due consideration and approval, the following documents which are attached hereto and made integral parts hereof:

Annex "A" - Certificate of Registration and Mayor's Permit;
Annex "B" - Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws;
Annex "C" - Schedule of Rates;
Annex "D" - Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Exemption;
Annex "E" - Affidavit of Publication, Boundary Map and Technical Description;
Annex "F" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "G" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "H" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "I" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "J" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "K" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "L" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "M" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "N" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "O" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "P" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "Q" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "R" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "S" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "T" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "U" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "V" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "W" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "X" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "Y" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
Annex "Z" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;

THE APPLICATION

3. IECO is a franchise duly organized and existing under Philippine laws to engage in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electric power with principal office address at the Energy Center, Rizal Street, Santiago, Isabela, Philippines;

4. Copies of pertinent documents supporting IECO's foregoing allegations are hereto attached as supplemental integral parts, thereof, to wit:

Annex "A" - Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws;
Annex "B" - Certificate of Registration;
Annex "C" - Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws;
Annex "D" - Schedule of Rates;
Annex "E" - Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Exemption;
Annex "F" - Affidavit of Publication, Boundary Map and Technical Description;
Annex "G" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;
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Annex "Z" - Certification that applicant is not violating or circumventing any provision of Republic Act No. 7925;

August	₱ 1,400.00
September	₱ 1,400.00
October	₱ 1,400.00
November	₱ 1,400.00
December	₱ 1,400.00

Note: * 10.00 kW with 1.5 interval for the first 15 kW

7. Residential Demand Young Rate (RDYR) as an alternative to regular energy (kWh) only rate and waives the applicable Maximum Demand, as specified in Section 5.1 of the RDYR;

Billing Month	December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012 (in kW)
January	15.00
February	15.00
March	15.00
April	15.00
May	15.00
June	15.00
July	15.00
August	15.00
September	15.00
October	15.00
November	15.00
December	15.00

Should the actual consumption of the Customer during any month shall exceed the applicable Maximum Demand, such excess shall be billed at the applicable rate per kWh as provided for in the Schedule of Rates. Such excess shall not be considered for the purpose of establishing any succeeding billing month's Maximum Demand. Each Maximum Demand shall be established for each month, or if the actual load of such month exceeds the Maximum Demand, then the actual load of such month shall be the Maximum Demand. Any change in Maximum Demand shall only take place at the start of the next billing month. If the Customer's actual load of such month exceeds the Maximum Demand, the Customer shall pay the Maximum Demand Charge for the excess consumption, over and above the Maximum Demand, in addition to the regular energy charge;

8. Basic Energy Charge. The schedule of Basic Energy Charge is as follows:

Particulars	Schedule of Rates (in ₱/kWh) for December 31, 2011 (Current Rate)
Basic Energy Charge	11.0000
Power Reduction Compensation Rate	(0.0000)
Lifeline Rate	N/A
Cost of Service	Total voltage cost of energy per kilowatt-hour (kWh) sold

The details of the PSA, such as formulation and pricing, among others, are discussed in the testimonies of the witnesses to be presented in support of the application;

9. Adjustments to the Basic Energy Charge. The Basic Energy Charge shall not be subject to the application of Fuel Cost Recovery (FCR) and Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO). The Basic Energy Charge shall only be subject to the Foreign Exchange (FOREX) Rate Adjustment Factor (FRAF) and Inflation Rate Adjustment Factor (IRAF), as provided for in the Schedule of Rates;

10. Billing. IECO's commercial operation of the NEDA is / began on December 31, 2010, as mentioned in par. 5;

11. Computation for IECO's Load. IECO or IECO may evaluate the significant increase in the load of the Customer, as mentioned in par. 6, and provide adequate metering, as mentioned in par. 6, any amount due and/or connection fees. On days from one (1) month, from the date of the application, to submit to the Energy Regulatory Commission designated as point of delivery, the Customer shall pay the Basic Energy Charge, as mentioned in par. 8, and the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) as mentioned in par. 9, and any other charges as provided for in the Schedule of Rates;

Advantages of Isabela Electric Company Inc. over Competing Electric Cooperative

12. There is a competing electric cooperative operating in the municipalities adjacent to the municipalities where the Customer's facilities are located and within the franchise area of the Isabela Electric Company Inc. (IECO). The Customer's facilities are located within the franchise area of IECO;

13. IECO's Basic Energy Charge of ₱11.0000/kWh is lower than the competing cooperative;

14. As shown above, by charging lower rates and more advantageous terms, IECO can expect of attracting energy loads from the competing cooperative;

Particulars	Energy and Fuel Rate of IECO (in ₱/kWh/Month)	Energy and Fuel Rate of IECO (in ₱/kWh/Month)
Energy Rate	5.0000	5.0000
Fuel Rate		0.0000

15. Discounts with Pre-Termination Clause. The Power Supply Agreement will be established with the Customer that IECO will provide a Fuel Cost Discount of ₱ 0.50/kWh for the following months:

15.1 The month of March, power generated from renewable sources of energy shall be subject to the feed-in tariff (FIT) rate awarded by the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB) as mandated by Republic Act No. 9513; and

15.2 Energy sales from RE/Biomass generation plant shall not be subject to the government's policy to encourage the development and utilization of renewable energy resources in effectively powered or remote islands and areas, and hence, shall be exempt from the universal charge for environmental charge (UCE) and for missionary electrification;

16. A copy of the resolution approving the signature of the IECO's board of directors, officials, and representatives' names and photos;

17. In support of the instant application for approval of the provisional authority, IECO alleges that:

The following documents:

17.1 The Secretary's Certificate authorizing the Executive Vice President (EVP) and Chief Operating Officer (COO), or, in the EVP's absence, any of the authorized signatories to sign the PSA and the PSA;

17.2 IECO's Board Resolution No. 15, Series of 2010, designating Messrs. Richard D. Tolentino and Ernesto B. Pedragosa as the duly authorized signatories of IECO in the negotiation of the PSA;

17.3 An Undertaking or Commitment stating that the EVP and COO or his duly authorized representative shall appear before the Commission and its duly appointed counsel during;

17.4 Operational Data Declaration, showing all technical characteristics of IECO;

17.5 General Data Declaration showing all relevant technical characteristics of IECO;

17.6 Data Declaration Annex Application with the National Transmission Company (TRANSCO);

17.7 Affidavit of Non-Hold Separation and Other Unbundling Compliance;

17.8 Latest and Complete List of IECO's Authorized Franchise Representatives, effective for the period July 01, 2010 to December 31, 2010; and

17.9 Evidence of Payment of Filing Fees.

Compliance with Pre-Filing Requirements

17. A manifestation and undertaking stating that the applicant, under Rule 3, Section 3(a) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), or as IECO's counsel, in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to wit:

17.1 Affidavit of Service with justification explaining the reason why personal service on the affected parties of the application is not practicable, or why the Commission allowed substituted service;

17.2 Notarized Affidavit of Publication stating that the latest publication had been published in a newspaper of general circulation with the widest area; and

17.3 Receipts of the corresponding payments for the publications.

Issuance of Provisional Authority

18. The foregoing allegations are by reference to reference;

19. Considering the advantages of the rate structure being proposed by IECO, without a provisional authority, the Customer will be unable to avail himself the lowest rate under the proposed PSA. In the best of its customers;

20. Considering the urgency of energy to IECO's customers' viability and survival, IECO is moving for the immediate issuance of a provisional authority, pending the determination of the application on the merits, pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9136 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, after due notice and hearing, a provisional authority authorizing IECO to implement the proposed rates on a provisional basis, subject to refund;

21. Attorney's Fees. To enable the Commission to have the services of its counsel and prosecution of the instant application, and of all the necessary and incidental hearings, IECO has engaged the services of the undersigned counsel at the rate of ₱ ___ per appearance;

Prayer

22. Thus, it is prayed that:

22.1 An immediate hearing be issued declaring IECO and IECO as immediately implementable provisional authority, according to the provisional rate;

22.2 After due notice and hearing, a final authority be granted to the PSA.

The Commission has set the application for initial hearing, expository presentation and the pre-trial conference on ___ at ___ o'clock in the morning at the Office of the Commission at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and pre-trial conference, a verified petition with the Commission pursuant to Section 5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, setting forth the nature of his interest, the reasons for his participation in the proceeding, and the way in which his interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding. He may also submit a comment or opposition to the petition.

Any such comment or opposition may state that a person wishes to be allowed to present evidence at the proceeding. Only the participants in the proceeding will be entitled to present evidence or to conduct cross-examination during the hearings. Persons who do not file petitions to participate in the proceeding shall not be allowed to present evidence, but may be heard to make comments at the discretion of the Commission.

Any interested person may obtain copies of the application and its attachments from the Commission Secretariat upon payment of the reasonable costs of reproduction.

Interested persons may also visit the Commission's website at http://www.erc.gov.ph to view the application and its attachments. Any comments on the application may be submitted to the Commission Secretariat, with copies furnished to the applicant or its counsel.

WITNESS the Honorable Commissioner **ERNESTO D. ESTAVILLO** and the Corporate Commissioners, **ROMEO T. ACOPIADO, JOSE C. ALEJO, ALFREDO J. NON, LUZ ANNE SUNICO, MARIFLOR A. SEVILLA**, Energy Regulatory Commissioners, this 27th day of January 2012 at Pasig City.

ATTY. FRANCIS SAN ANDRES-ALMARIO
Director IV

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1 The Affidavit of the Publication to be issued by the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) and the Boundary Map and Technical Description, among others, were marked as Annexes "E" to "E-3" of the Application.

2 Page 10 of the Application dated January 27, 2012 (ERC Docket No. 2012-001 MC).

Records of the Commission's Docket Office.

(sgd.) ATTY. FRANCIS SAN ANDRES-ALMARIO
Director IV

ISABELA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
Isabela, Northern Luzon City

INVITATION TO BID

Project: Bidding for the Repair of Rectifier and Automatic Voltage Regulator
Bid Bulletin No. 2012-004

Bidding: March 13, 2012 (Pre-bidding Conference) 10:00 AM

Purpose: Authorized 3 Main Office Personnel
Isabela Electric Company Inc.

Bid Documents: Php 1,000.00

Those interested Bidders shall bring the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1. Business Registration (SEC or DTI)
2. Mayor's Permit (Business Permit)
3. Contractor's License (Company Profile)
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Updated Income Tax Return
6. Omnibus Sworn Statement/Affidavit/Undertaking Certificate, etc.
7. Technical and Financial Proposal (Company Name Letterhead for Proposal Only)

For inquiries, prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretary, Engr. E. Carlos at (078) 624-0001 local 10000.

Noted by:

(sgd.) **ENGR. NILA B. ZARA**
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(sgd.) **ENGR. VICTORINO B. MENDOZA**
Assistant General Manager

"NURSES"

- **With AHPRA APPROVAL**
  - **No IELTS Required**
- **NURSES with RENEWED LICENSE**
  - **Must have minimum of 2 years experience in Hospital setting**
- **NURSES with or without EXPERIENCE**
- **Engineers, Teachers & others**

We can assist you

FREE SEMINAR this coming March 10, 2012 @ 1pm
Venue: TBA (to advise)

Please book early to reserve seats.

VMC Visa & Migration Consultancy
Unit 2101 Citybank N. Tower 1
H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

Email: applyvmcmc@gmail.com
Phone: +63 (02) 867 4647 or +63 908 7141
Mobile: 0918 344 9534

We are not a recruitment agency

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classified Advertising Hotlines:

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Trunkline 887-6808 loc. 514, 516 & 345
• Telefax 897-8425 • Telefax 896-4427

Alabang Provincial Branch
(02) 553-7946, 553-794
• Telefax: (02) 553-8894

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
421-8343 • 421-1430 • Fax 912-8010

SM Megamall, Mandaluyong Branch
638-8219 • 687-2354 • Fax 635-8220

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Direct Line 528-8213
Trunkline 528-6578 loc. 115 or 116 • Fax 528-8254

OBITUARIES

God called her from among us as a form of eternal rest

BETTY U. SEGISMUNDO

Los Angeles, California, USA

January 29, 1934 – February 16, 2012

Survived by her children: JUN, MAR, ROY, MEL, MARIE, LEN and MARYANN and their families request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"For I am about to do the work of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises that the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." – Joshua 23:14

JOSEFINO ROQUE GAMBOA
"Boy"

departed this Creation on March 5, 2012 at the age of 64.

His brother and sister **Evelyn Roque Tayag**, children **Lea Gerard** and **Sharon**, grandchildren **Eugene Joseph** and **Jordana Zachary** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Monuvenue Chapel, Cavite Road, Pitahanan until Wednesday, March 7 evening.

His remains will be transferred to La Paz Memorial Chapels, McArthur Riverside, Ilaya on March 8, 2012. Cremation will follow on March 11, 2012.

"No obituary still a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one."

Always call:
Inquirer Classifieds

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Copy of Official Receipt (O.R.)

DEADLINES:
WEEKDAYS - 10:00 AM
SATURDAYS - 9:00 AM
NO SUNDAY

Republic of the Philippines
DOMAS SEGUIDAD TYSTOSA
Gas Station Owner / Operator
Tel. Nos. (032) 343 8421 • (032) 343 8422
E-mail: domas_seguidad@yahoo.com • Website: http://www.dsgas.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

To submit Highly Bidding for the Sale and Disposal of various DSG Unserviceable Furniture & Equipment, Scrap papers, Obsolete Supplies/Materials, one (1) unit Hydraulic Automotive Repair Floor Crane and three (3) units Manual Automotive Repair Lifter Vehicles.

The DOMAS SEGUIDAD TYSTOSA, a metropolitan, is pleased to invite all interested parties to submit their sealed bids for the following items, which are presently stored at the DSG Warehouse, Ground Floor, Paper Cutter Building and Second Automotive Repair Paper Cutter Building and Metal Cutting Repair's Industrial Repair Shop, which can be viewed by prospective bidders:

Category	Subject Properties	Minimum Bid Price	Location	Condition
Lot 1	Unserviceable Furniture & Equipments	P100,000.00	100 Nicolas Cortes Highway, Mandaluyong City	Poor / Waste to Scrap
Lot 2	Scrap Paper Cut / Shredder Supplies/ Materials	380,000.00	100, Magsay, Sorsogon Highway, Mandaluyong City / 100, Guadalupe Nuevo	as-is
Lot 3	Abandoned Automotive Repair Paper Cutter Machine and Welding Model 713	50,000.00	100, Main Office, Quiapo Avenue, Quezon City	as-is
Lot 4	Abandoned Automotive Repair Shop Hydraulic Motor Vehicle Lifter / Jack Plate no. 8976-887	50,000.00	100, Main Office, Quiapo Avenue, Quezon City	as-is
Lot 5	Abandoned Automotive Repair Shop Hydraulic Motor Vehicle Lifter / Jack Plate no. 8976-887	50,000.00	n/a	as-is
Lot 6	Abandoned Automotive Repair Shop Hydraulic Motor Vehicle Lifter / Jack Plate no. 8976-887	50,000.00	n/a	as-is

Schedule of Activities:

1. Publication of Invitation to Bid - March 14, 2011
2. Issuance of Bid Documents - March 5, 2012
3. Date of Inspection - March 13, 2012
4. Pre-Bid Conference - March 13, 2012
5. Submission of Sealed Bids - March 20, 2012 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
6. Opening of Bids - March 20, 2012 2:00 pm

The complete set of bidding documents and its issued to all interested parties to the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, DSG Main Building, Cruz Avenue, Quezon City, with telephone no. 8888-887 local 1812 upon application and payment of a non- refundable of P750 per set.

The DSG reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and/or accept to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the DSG. The DSG will not entertain any complaints for any bid whatsoever that may be received due to the failure in the preparation of their respective bids, no more than 500 guarantee that an award will be made.

The Disposal Committee - Main Office
The Secretariat
Office Services Department
2nd Floor, DSG Main Building
Cruz Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel # 8888-887 local 1812
Email: domas_seguidad@yahoo.com
Facsimile number: +63 (02) 8888-887

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTONIO G. ARANJUEZ**
Chairman, Disposal Committee, Main Office

(PDI, Mar. 7, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region I
DIVISION OF ILOCOS SUR
Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Telephone Nos. (077) 722-0987, 722-0871 local 105, 722-0932, 722-0732 local 105

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Ilocos Sur, Bantay, Ilocos Sur intends to apply through the CY 2012 Basic Education Facilities Fund the cost of the following projects: (if more than one, separate by lots) (details, the NOA and Notice of Award (NOA) of the Contract Awarded to Two (2) Invited to the Procedure (Two (2) Times) (Two (2) Times) (Two (2) Times) Bantay, Ilocos Sur (Sgd.) for the Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs) is available for purchase under the Terms and Conditions of Procurement and Procedures Fund (BEFF).

Division	Name of School	Municipality/ Location	Scope of Work	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per Project (in Pesos)	Contract Duration
1	CUDDYAN NC Classroom (1)	BIGAO Cuddyan	Construction of 1 CL Type 1 Building	1,000,000.00	90 cd
2	SAN VICENTE NHS Classroom (1)	SAN VICENTE	Construction of 1 CL Type 1 Building	1,987,000.00	90 cd
3	SUGAR NHS Classroom (1)	CABUGAO	Construction of 1CL Type 1	1,987,000.00	90 cd
4	MANDOG NHS Classroom (2)	SAN VICENTE Cuddyan	Construction of One (1) Unit Two Classroom Building	2,240,000.00	90 cd
5	CABUGAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Classroom (2)	CABUGAO	Construction of One (1) Unit Two Classroom Building	2,240,000.00	90 cd
6	CABUGAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Classroom (1)	CABUGAO	Construction of One (1) Unit Two Classroom Building	1,120,000.00	90 cd
7	SAN VICENTE NHS Classroom (1)	SAN VICENTE	Construction of One (1) Unit Two Classroom Building	1,120,000.00	90 cd
8	CABUGAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Classroom (1)	CABUGAO	Construction of 1 CL Type 1	1,000,000.00	90 cd
9	PUTOCAN NHS Classroom (1)	PUTOCAN Cuddyan	Construction of 1 CL Type 1	1,000,000.00	90 cd

The Department of Education, Division of Ilocos Sur hereby invites Bids for the above Contracts. Bids must be for the entire Project by Lots, if applicable. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). The Pre-Bid Conference shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education, Division of Ilocos Sur reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive any defect therein in accordance with the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act 9184).

For further information, please refer to:

Marina G. Reyes, Ed. D., CESO
Schools Division Superintendent

Department of Education
Division of Ilocos Sur
Bantay, Ilocos Sur
(077) 722-0987, 722-0871 local 105

(Sgd.) **MARINA G. REYES, Ed.D., CESO**
Schools Division Superintendent

(PDI – March 7, 2012)

Activity	Date & Time	Venue
Issuance of the Bidding Documents	March 8, 2012 (8:00 AM) - March 21, 2012 (5:00 PM)	Cashier's Division of Ilocos Sur, Division Office, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Pre-Bid Conference	March 13, 2012 (2:00 PM)	Conference Room, Division of Ilocos Sur, Division Office, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Deadline for Submission of Bids	March 22, 2012 (9:00 AM)	Division of Ilocos Sur, Division Office, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Opening of Bids	March 22, 2012 (9:00 AM)	Division of Ilocos Sur, Division Office, Bantay, Ilocos Sur

Inquirer MAY TRABAHO DITO Advertise in INQUIRER Libre

Request for Interested Parties for Gas Station Operator in GGLC

Project Location

Located within Clark Freeport Zone, it's land area is known as Global Gateway Logistics City, also Road 2, Industrial Estate 3, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines 2023.

Project Name

Gas Plaza – Gas Station Operator

Project Description

GGLC is the country's first Greenmagate located at the main interchange to Clark Freeport Zone off the SCTEX toll road. Adjacent to the country's largest and fastest growing airport. GGLC is a fully integrated and master planned logistics & business park, catering to a four-seven pillar business clientele. The Gas Plaza will be the first commercial development within GGLC and is located at the first intersection off the SCTEX, providing access to 100% of all traffic coming in and off the SCTEX Clark Southbound.

Approximately 1.5 hectares of land, the Gas Plaza will be a high end retail/commercial outlet providing convenience and destination shopping and commercial office space, situated along a major thoroughfare this has frontage of a minimum of 1,000 sqm and is supported by 2,000 sqm of retail space for tenants/concessionaires with complimenting office space.

In addition to serving routine traffic, the Gas Operator will also provide all GGLC project fuel requirements estimated in excess of 100,000 liters annually.

GGLC is empanelling all interested parties to contact:

John Mateo
Business Development Manager
Peregrine Development International Inc.
0906 566 9883
jbateo@peregrinedevelopments.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region I-VIII
DIVISION OF ILOCOS
Lallochgan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Ilocos sur Region I-VIII through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all qualified and eligible contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following projects:

NAME OF CONTRACT	TO ELIGIBILITY AND HOME TO SUBMIT SEALED BIDS FOR SCHOOL CLASSROOMS BUILDING (2 UNITS), BOOKSHOP AND CANTEEN BUILDING AT SAN V. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LOCATION/DURATION	CLASSROOMS AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE DIVISION DISTRICT OF CABUGAO
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	The above mentioned bidder shall specifically undertake the construction of the Classrooms Building (2 units), Bookshop and Canteen Building in accordance with the plans and specifications attached to the bidding documents
APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	Php 2,000,000.00
CONTRACT DURATION	120 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders shall have an unexpired Mayor's/Business permit issued within the period of time as required by law prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. All bidders shall submit the following documents: "Bidder" is the business name or name of the sole proprietorship.

The submission of copies of Income (Life) should strictly comply with the BIR Regulations No. 26-97 issued on March 1997 and in accordance with the requirements of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Failure to submit any of the above mentioned documents and/or submission of false or forged documents shall be ground for disqualification from participation in the bidding process and/or forfeiture of the bid security.

All authorized bidders shall be eligibility check. Evaluation and Post Qualification of Bids will be based on the criteria and procedures set forth in the IRR of RA 9184. Bidders must submit their bids through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) duly established by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A. 9184). Bidders must submit their bids through the BAC at the Division Office of Ilocos Sur. Bidders must submit their bids in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A. 9184).

For schedule of activities please refer below:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertising / Posting of IAB	March 07 to 21, 2012
2. Issuance and Selling of Bidding Documents	March 07 to 21, 2012
3. Pre-bid Conference	March 14, 2012
4. Submission and Opening of Bids	March 21, 2012
5. Bid Evaluation	March 21 to 23, 2012
6. Post-Qualification and Approval	March 24 to 27, 2012
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	March 28, 2012
8. Approval of Contracts and Issuance of Notice to Proceed	April 2 to 3, 2012
9. Signing of Contracts	April 4, 2012
10. Notice to Proceed	April 5, 2012

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon approval of bid documentation by the BAC and the NOA Committee.

The procuring entity reserves its responsibility whatsoever to cooperate or intervene should any bidder or any of its representatives in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract.

(Sgd.) **LUCITA G. DE VEYRA, Ph.D.**
Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **THELMA C. CATALAN, Ph. D., CESO V**
Schools Division Superintendent
Head of the Procuring Entity

(PDI – March 7, 2012)

HR Society Supports DOLE on Holiday Issue

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF FELLOWS in People Management (PSOF) declared last February 24 its support to the position taken by Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz on abolishment of seven Special Holidays.

PSOF President Enrique Abadesco, Jr., DPM, said, "We fully agree with Secretary Baldoz that creating more non-working holidays will seriously affect the global competitiveness and productivity of the Philippines. Moreover, daily-paid workers would lose income due to the no work, no pay principle."

The PSOF is an affiliate organization of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and is composed of the top human resources practitioners in the Philippines, whose members are accredited to become Diplomates, Fellows or Associates, fellows. The PMAP was first organized in 1956, and today has more than 1,200 member companies and individuals.

Citing the case of the advocacy committees, Irene Cecilio, DPM, adds, "Today our ASEAN neighbors, except Cambodia and Timor-Leste, have succeeded in its global competitiveness for several reasons, among which is our unacceptable labor policies. The high number of non-working holidays and high minimum wages translate into a holiday pay budget almost six times more in the Philippines than in Vietnam. For each employee who takes a holiday due to the employers we say, the PHP 4 minimum wage becomes PHP 600 or more. This translates into millions of dollars per day in additional payroll cost for the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry. But, outsourcing holidays affect most the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that comprise 99% of registered businesses and account for 60% of employees in the formal sector. Research shows that in recent years, one of thousands of jobs have been lost in the informal sector (e.g., market/ground vendors) as MSMEs are unable to cope with the high cost of doing business and constricted labor policies."

According to Cecilio, "Malaysia has 8 holidays, Indonesia 14 and the Philippines 23 (not counting local holidays). In 2009, Indonesia had $106 billion GDP while the Philippines had $144 billion, and Vietnam had $61 billion. Last year Indonesia grew the GDP to $846 billion, as the threshold of joining the elite trillion dollar economies. Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam have benefited from large foreign direct investments (FDIs) on account of more competitive policies. Indonesia had $ 19.5 billion in FDIs in 2011, compared to less than $1 billion in the Philippines. In fact $485 billion target in FDIs, Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan wants to overhaul its 3000 Labor Code to make it more pro-investor."

Abadesco also agrees with the DOLE initiative to review the 1974 Labor Code that some had termed provisions outdated in relation to global market changes, but warns that retrogressive could result if more anti-investment provisions are inserted into the Code.

FAMILY THERAPY AT THE ACADEMY OF HOPE

The Academy of Hope (TAOH) celebrated its monthly Family Therapy in cooperation with Drs. Hilda Manzo and TAOH Staff. Students and Families. TAOH chose to share its blessing for a re-outreach program with 30 children from Antonio Foundation. The Academy Students were given a basket full of school supplies and goodies. From: last to right: Mr. Justin Gonzales III, Executive Director of The Glen Rigor Place Foundation Inc. and Mrs. Genara M. Arroyo of Antonio Foundation. The Academy of Hope is a school concept accredited by DOH (Department of Health as a Drug / Alcohol Treatment and Rehabilitation Center & Acute Chronic Psychiatric Facility that deals with Anxiety, Depression, Bi-Polar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Substances Abuse problems. For inquiries, TAOH is located at Brgy. Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna. (02) 584-4534 or (63) 889-2417 ; (049) 531-5800; (049) 502-2047. Please visit our website at www.academyofhope.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and address of Employer/Principal/Hiring Entity	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PRETTIME 24F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Corinella Pellonella Maria Klaassen Dutch	Manager III Planning Consultant
PANCHEVREFIN & ARNOLLO 20/F, Tower 1 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Aline Mirgaux Japanese	Senior Manager
PHILSPIRAL GUILDERS CORPORATION No. 42 Duhat St., Brgy. Cubao, Quezon City	Jo Nam Ko Korean	President
PHIL FIN FOODS & TRAVEL AGENCY CORP. MRMDT Bldgs. St. Cor. Del. Bonifacio Ave., Makati City	Hyeok Min Kwon Korean	Tourism Coordinator
MAKA ENGINEERING, LTD. 3/F Phil.com Tower, 5765, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Pawaskorpol Phonarn Thai	Thai-language Customer Service Officer
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Yonghong Feng Chinese	Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager
JUN SHI, INC. GF The Alphanam Bldg., 160 Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Charles Whitbottom British	Senior HF Engineer
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower II RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ting Lin Chinese	Customer Service Representative
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower II RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ying-Chen Chen Taiwanese	Customer Service Representative
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower II RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hsin-Chuan Chinese	Customer Service Representative
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower II RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ying-hung Chen Taiwanese	Customer Service Representative
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F Tower II RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wei-Chao Chou Taiwanese	Customer Service Representative
JU FANG TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL, INC. 16/F RCBC Plaza, Tower I, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yao-Chao Lai Chinese	Customer Service Inventor (Mandarin Speaking)
BANYAN INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDING, INC. 24/F RCBC Plaza, Tower I, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jia Ba Chinese	Chinese - US Specialist
SUMITOMO METAL MINING OIKE SPRING HOLDINGS CORPORATION 24/F Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yoshihiro Yoshida Japanese	Vice President for Procurement and Logistics
SINE-O-SINE FOOD CORPORATION 3/Fl. # 3147-1-10 Sebastian Street, Old Makati Commercial Complex Central Business Park 1, Poblacion, Makati City	Chi-Hung Chen Chinese	Chief Cook
YI TAO ENTERPRISE IRON METAL (PHILS.) CORP. 7F-10 cor. 2nd & 6th St., Fortune Avenue, Fortune, Marikina City	Ming-Hong Lin Chinese	Project Consultant
ABB GENCO, C. BV. 10/F The Alphanam Bldg., 160 Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Laurent Remonet French	Solution Delivery Manager

Name and address of Employer/Principal/Hiring Entity	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. 11/26 Pinag St., Municipal Business Park, Mabolang, Muntinlupa City	Hayashi Nobuaki Japanese	Deputy-OIC Manager
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES, INC. 28/F Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza, 5767 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Venkatesan Rao Lingamchandra Indian	CAPATSCM Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. 6/F E-Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dat Quoc Khanh Zumarraga Filipino	Vietnamese Invoice Processor-Senior Assistant
ACCENTURE, INC. 6/F E-Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yasin Rio Mike Indonesian	Level 01Senior Assistant
FAR SOUTHEAST GOLD RESOURCES, INC. 31/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Lindley Hector Wilson South African	Senior Finance Manager
FAR SOUTHEAST GOLD RESOURCES, INC. 31/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jonathon Charles Roger Kingdon British	Project Director
TELEVISION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 31/F Discovery Centre 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Michael James Hickey Canadian	Vice President for Operations
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Chaohang Pan Chinese	Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Mengyan Song Chinese	Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Mingzhi Jiang Chinese	Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Xiaoning Liu Chinese	Machine Technician
BICOL CHEMINETE & MANGANESE CORPORATION No. 12 Guinayan St., Barangay Bella Vista, Quezon City	Linwen Chang Chinese	Machine Technician
Cyberzen (Ph) Inc. Level 40 Tower Two 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Mandy Shanmukha Mikkili Australian	President / Chairman of the Board
B.O.T.W. INC. Unit 407 AIU Energy Ops Bldg. Pioneer St. cor. Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Mr. Ravi Lee Kumar Kenyan	Consultant
FACTSET PHILIPPINES, INC. 30/F Commerce and Industry Plaza, Campos Rueda Corporation, Makati City	Johannes Helmut Wolfrat German	Financial Language Analyst

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALBERT S. MACAPINLAC, CESO III
Regional Director

DOLE-NCR-1-2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Office XII
Koronadal City

February 21, 2012

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Region XII invites interested and prospective bidders for the supply and delivery of:

1. **4 UNITS HOLLOW TYPE CONCRETE MIXER** — ABC: P50,000
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   a. Minimum net drum ... Minimum capacity
   b. Concrete system ... Concrete capacity per hour
   c. Loam sheeting ... 6 sheeting capacity
   d. Drum type ... 10 tons capacity
   e. Angle

   ALTERNATIVES: Similar Manufacturer (Brand New) — JAPAN MADE

2. **5 UNITS DIESEL TRACTOR (4WD)** — ABC: P750,000.00
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   Japan Made
   a. PTO Horsepower ... 40
   b. PTO type ... Mid
   c. PTO type ... Live, Independent
   d. PTO clutch ... 20 mm, 6 splins
   e. 3 point linkage ... Category 1
   f. Hydraulic lift system ... 20 liters/min (1,400 RPM) min. capacity with PTO and load sensing (variable) power
   g. Hydraulic control ... Position draft
   h. Steering system ... Hydrostatic
   i. Transmission System ... 8 forward speed, 2 reverse synchronous mesh main gears
   j. Clutch system ... Dry single disc
   k. Brake system ... Hydraulic wet disc
   l. Warranty ... 1 yr. or 1,000 hours whichever
   m. Safety requirements ... ROPS & canopy, PTO shaft guards
   n. Standard accessories ... Canopy, front tow, operating instructions, operator's manual, front counter weight, rear weight, 1 pr. linkage swinging, heavy duty, three link
   o. Tractor mounted type DISC PLOW (DEMO PTO)
   p. Rotary cultivator (Tractor mounted with 1.5 meter PTO) or (shaft drive)

3. **4 UNITS HAMMER MILL** (Diesel/Electric motor) — LUZON MADE — ABC: P70,000
   Weight: (Electric 1000)
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   a. Type ... Hammer
   b. Materials ... ASTM A36 or AISI 1020 or its equivalent
   c. Minimum input capacity ... 500kg/hr
   d. Maximum output ... 5%
   e. Maximum fineness (final solution to PASS 2 M) ... 80 mesh screen PASS 2 M
   f. Maximum throughput ... 1 - 500 kg/hr (LUZON MADE) / Single phase 60HZ
   g. Design, maintainability, and fineness should be according to PNSE 210

4. **4 UNITS CORN MILL** — ABC: P150,000.00
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   a. Type ... Roller
   b. Materials ... AISI 1040 or its ISO Equivalent
   c. Minimum input capacity ... 500kg/hr
   d. Minimum Product recovery ... 95%
   e. Maximum losses ... 5%
   f. Maximum output level ... 80 mesh screen PASS 2 M
   Horsepower ... 1 - 500 kg/hr (LUZON MADE) / Single phase 60HZ
   h. Design, maintainability, and fineness should be according to PNSE 210
   i. Shuttle belts
   j. MOTOR or gasoline engine

5. **TRUCKS (CHASSIS) LOW** — 3 tons/hr capacity — ABC: 1,000
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   - Double wheel and brand new tires
   - 12 HP motor engine
   - with complete accessories
   - JAPAN made

6. **4 UNITS CASSAVA GRANULATORS** (with SHREDDER) — ABC: 1,2
   SPECIFICATIONS:
   a. 2.5-3.0 tons/hr capacity
   b. 6HP diesel engine (with 4 cycle model air cooled)
   c. Heavy duty hand tipped and horizontal rollers and stationary cutting knives
   d. Replaceable granulating screens to suit processing rate
   e. IMPEX MAKE

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: March 13, 2012 at 10:00 AM, 8th Fl. XII
OPENING OF BIDS: 23 March 2012 at 9:30 AM (LATEST)

The DA-RFO 12 reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to accept bids most advantageous to the government.

Atty. JIMMY B. ELVIS, Ph.D.
OIC for Operations
BAC Chairman

DPO - March 7, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 929-95-97 • 929-80-74

Shellfish Bulletin No. 06
Series of 2012
29 February 2012

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfish collected at Dumanquilas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur; Mandaragan Bay in Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental; Macabebe Bay in Pampanga; Bohol shellfish waters (Talibon, Ubay, Cortes, Pilar, Bien Unido, Tubigon, Clarin, Inabanga and Getafe); Matarinao Bay in Eastern Samar; and Estancia waters of Iloilo and Concepcion in Pangasinan are still positive for paralytic shellfish poison that is beyond the regulatory limit.

All types of shellfish and shellfish gp. or shellfish gathered from the areas shown above are **NOT SAFE** for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are most carefully thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to **AVOID** from trade and taking: coastal waters of Cavite, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Navotas and Bulacan in Manila Bay; coastal waters of Malapitan and Mandaluyan in Masbate; Jiabong Lagoon in Samar; and Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental; and Puerto Princesa City, and Honda Bay in Palawan; Coastal waters of Tayabas, Polillo, Real, Infanta, Gumaca, Lucena City, Pagbilao, Atimonan, Plaridel, Mauban, Sariaya, Candelaria, Tiaong, San Antonio, Lucban, Tayabas City, Dolores, Unisan, Pitogo, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Buenavista, Agdangan, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Calauag, Quezon, San Francisco, Perez, and Alabat in Quezon; coastal waters of Bataan, Subic, Olongapo City, Zambales, Masinloc, Palauig, Iba, Botolan, Cabangan, San Felipe, Candelaria, Santa Cruz, Castillejos, San Marcelino, San Narciso, San Antonio, Zambales; coastal waters of Bolinao, Anda, Alaminos City, Dagupan City, Sual, Lingayen, Binmaley, Mangaldan, Dasol, Bani, Agno, Aguilar, Labrador, Sual, and Burgos in Pangasinan; and Ilog Hilabangan and Aganan River in Iloilo province.

Approved by:

ATTY. ASIS G. PEREZ
Director

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Rizal
MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON
Quezon, Province of Rizal

INVITATION TO BID
Public Bidding 2012-03

The Local Government of Quezon, Rizal, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites reputable and experienced suppliers/dealers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contracts:

Name of Project	Procurement of Goods
Location	Local Government Quezon
Contract Signing	Two (2) days upon receipt of Notice of Award
Delivery/Period	within 10 days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Procurement of Goods	ITEMS	Mode of Procurement	ABC	Source of Fund
A. Heavy Equipment				
Lot 01 PHP 1.0b	Mobile Crane/Limestone Crusher (Crawler Type) 4.0 Tonnes	By Lot	4,000,000.00	GF
		Grand Total	Php 4,000,000.00	

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as bid Preliminary Examination shall include minimum technical/financial/ "passed/fail" criteria. Prequalification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, if any, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete invitation to bid is posted on the Bulletin Boards of the following:

Activities	Schedule	Time	Place
1. Advertisement	March 7-7, 2012	-	Municipal Hall, Bulletin Board, Public Market (Bulletin Board), Barangays
2. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements of the Bidder	March 13, 2012	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	BAC Office, 2nd Floor, New Municipal Hall Building, Libertad, Quezon, Batangas
3. Pre-bid Conference	March 15, 2012	2:00 PM	BAC Office, 2nd Floor, New Municipal Hall Building, Libertad, Quezon, Batangas
4. Deadline of Bid Submission	March 21, 2012	1:30 PM	BAC Office, 2nd Floor, New Municipal Hall Building, Libertad, Quezon, Batangas
5. Opening of Bid	March 21, 2012	2:00 PM	BAC Office, 2nd Floor, New Municipal Hall Building, Libertad, Quezon, Batangas
6. Bid Evaluation	March 22, 2012	-	-
7. Post-Qualification	March 26, 2012	-	-
8. Notice of Award	March 30, 2012	-	-

Interested bidders may obtain bid documents for the procurement of above-mentioned goods at the Office of BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, New Municipal Hall Building, Libertad, Quezon, Batangas upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two thousand Fifty Pesos and No Cts (Php 2,050.00).

Contact Head Secretariat ARNIE C. VARGAS with Telefax number 043-310-1213 or 09153571401.

The Municipal Government of Quezon, Batangas reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all/Eligibility Documents, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and assumes no responsibility whatsoever in consequence of arbitrarily action to any suspension incurred in connection therewith.

Approved by:

ENGR. ANDRE I. KAIR, CE, ME
BAC Chairman

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